

De Gaulle, Napoleon and Victor Hugo wheeled out to save Maastricht

Europe moves to back French yes campaign

By Robin Oakley in London and Charles Bremner in Paris

THE bill to ratify the Maastricht agreement on European union will be withdrawn from the Commons if the French reject the treaty in their referendum on September 20, Downing Street said yesterday.

The announcement was part of what appeared to be a co-ordinated European campaign to rally support for the deal, which was rejected by the Danes in their June referendum, and to convince the French that the referendum was not so much a vote on President Mitterrand's political future, but on the fate of European union. Leading Italian and Spanish ministers issued statements calling for ratification.

Two French opinion polls released yesterday showed narrow support for acceptance of the deal struck last December. These will have been some comfort to Mitterrand on the eve of his

televised debate on the issue, which will feature a satellite message of support from Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. John Major, who holds the presidency of the European Community, declined to appear in the programme. Mitterrand will cross swords with Philippe Seguin, the Gaullist champion of the "no" campaign.

Downing Street said that even if the French rejected the treaty by the smallest margin, the government would consider it to be dead and would then look to see what could be salvaged from the wreckage.

Senior government sources emphasised, however, that the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system would not die with the treaty and that Britain would seek to maintain the pound at its present ERM parity of DM2.95. Interest rates would be raised, if necessary. However, a French "no" vote would cause such tremors through the foreign exchange markets that the central banks' ability to maintain parity within the ERM would be severely stretched.

Downing Street has admitted before that a French rejection would kill the treaty, but yesterday's announcement was the first open acknowledgement since French opinion polls raised the prospect that the deal might be turned down. While pro-Europeans saw the statement as a rallying cry for the treaty, critics argued that the government, which had denied Britons their say in a referendum, was leaving it to the French to make its decisions.

Lord Tebbit, the former Conservative party chairman, said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* programme that the treaty was already dead because the Danes had rejected it. "I find it surprising that Downing Street seems to think that the Danes don't count while the French do," he said.

Dr Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, said that it would be a "farce" for the government to proceed with the Maastricht bill if the French rejected ratification. On the BBC's *PM Programme*, he said: "A French 'no' would mean that the whole of Maastricht was completely finished and there would be no way back. It would cause major economic problems for us all and it would be back to the drawing board for the development of the European Community."

Paddy Ashdown, leader of

the Liberal Democrats, agreed that the government would be right to drop the treaty. However, he accused Mr Major of a "most discreditable lack of leadership", saying that he was paying more attention to Tory party divisions than to the interests of the country. Mr Ashdown accused the prime minister of sheltering behind Mitterrand and Herr Kohl. "Having won his opt-outs in Maastricht, Mr Major seems instant on opting-out of his responsibilities as president for the Community's future... he must stop behaving like a government whip and start acting like a prime minister."

The BVA poll, published in today's *Paris-Match*, shows that support for ratification has risen to 51 per cent, with 49 per cent against. Last week BVA's findings were the exact reverse. The number of respondents who do not know how they will vote has fallen from 36 to 30 per cent. A second poll, by the IPSOS firm, puts support for the treaty at 53 per cent, with 47 per cent against. Last week it found 52 per cent against.

The BVA poll also shows that personal support for Mitterrand has fallen by one percentage point during the past week to 59 per cent. The French president is expected to make it clear during tonight's televised debate, however, that he will not link his own future to the outcome of the referendum.

As the European "yes" campaign gathered momentum, the European Parliament's socialist group, led by Claude Cheysson, the former French foreign minister, yesterday launched a series of postcards of famous historical figures to support it. They included Napoleon Bonaparte, Victor Hugo and Jean-Paul Sartre.

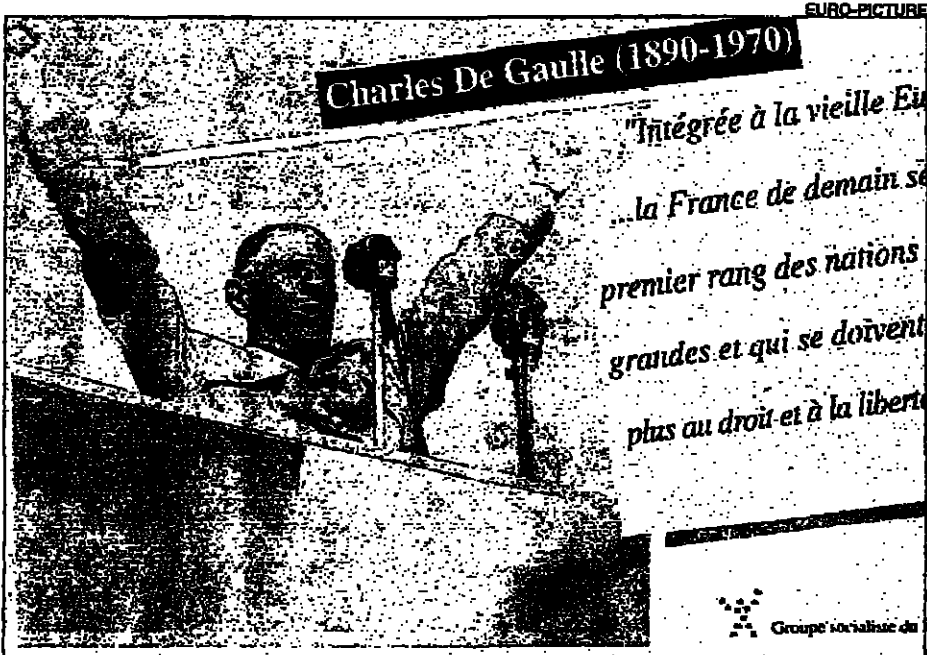
Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, appeared in Strasbourg last night with Michel Rocard, the French former Socialist prime minister, to champion the pro-Maastricht campaign.

Martin Bangemann, the EC internal market commissioner, said he believed other countries would have to stop the process of ratification if the French voted against the treaty. He was particularly scathing about French politicians who had turned the "no" campaign into an anti-German tirade, with warnings of plans for a German-controlled middle Europe and reminders about Germany's military roots.

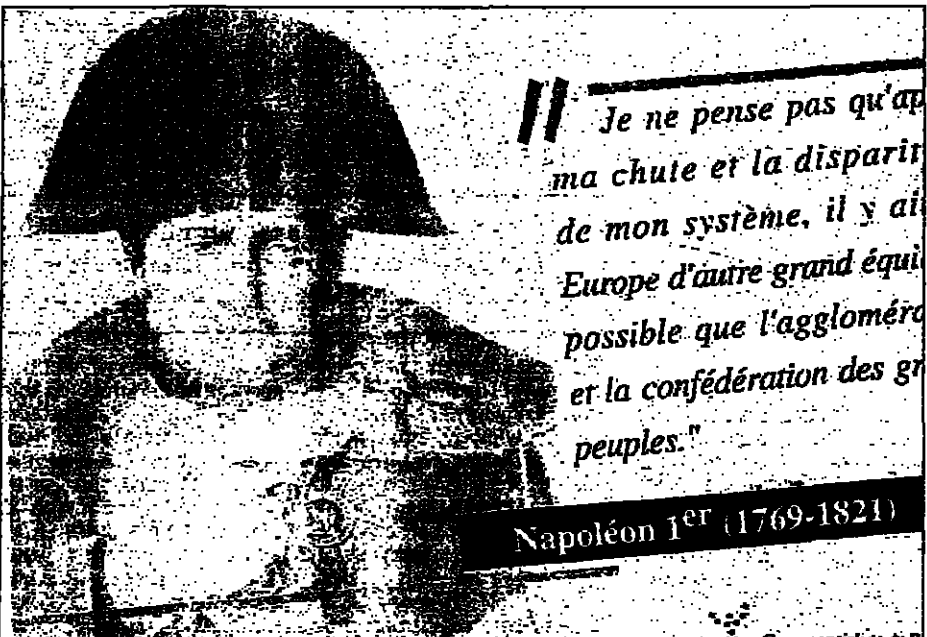
"We can only put up with that for a certain amount of time," he said. "In the long run it presupposes that Germany wants to leave the EC, which is quite wrong. It's pretty unbearable for most Germans."

Emilio Colombo, the Italian foreign minister, said yesterday that ratification would help Italy to defend the embattled lira and he added that his country should try to push acceptance through before the French referendum.

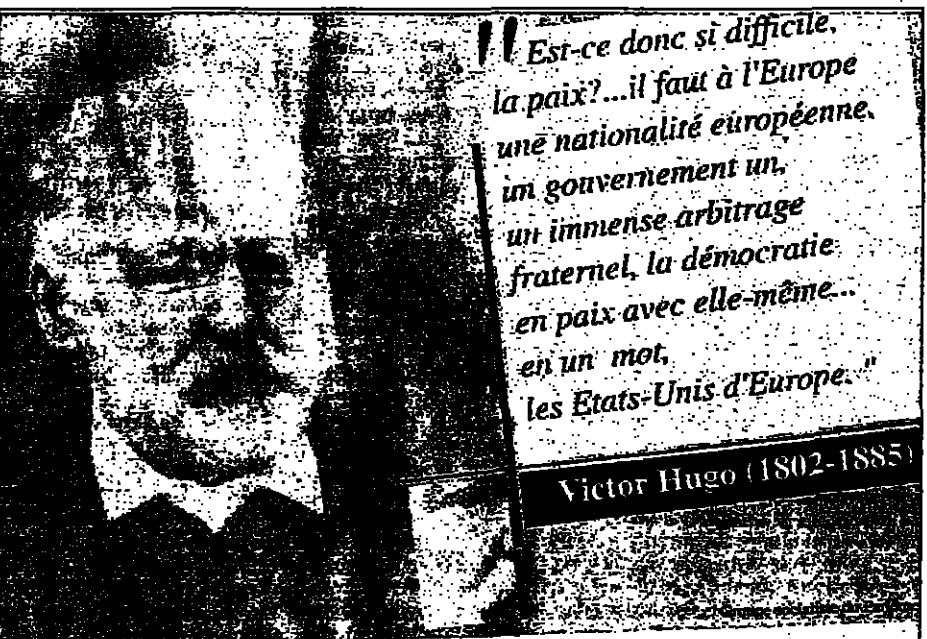
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Charles De Gaulle (1890-1970)



Napoléon 1^{er} (1769-1821)



Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

Yes men: campaigners for a referendum "oui" have issued cards of pro-Europe Frenchmen, including De Gaulle, Napoleon and Victor Hugo. Diary, page 10

Chess kings re-open the old wounds

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND MICHAEL BINYON

WATCHED by his 19-year-old girlfriend, Bobby Fischer ended a 20-year absence from the world of international chess yesterday when he opened his game with Boris Spassky at the Adriatic resort of Sveti Stefan, Montenegro. Fischer, dressed in a dark blue suit, sat opposite his old rival who was in a grey jacket and dark trousers for what has been billed as the revenge match of the century.

A commentary and a diagram of the final position after each day's game will be carried by *The Times*. The match will switch to Belgrade when one player has won five games. The winner will be the first to ten games and playing days are Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

Photograph, page 7
Checking in, page 10

Serbs yield heavy gun bases to UN

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND MICHAEL BINYON

ELEVEN Serbian artillery positions around Sarajevo are to be put under United Nations supervision, according to a UN Protection Force (Unprofor) official yesterday. Details of the sites were to be handed over last night by Radovan Karadzic, the Serbian leader in Bosnia. There are also three other locations at Bihać in the northwest and two at Yajce in central Bosnia. Mortars continued to fall on Sarajevo, however, and fighting was still going on in the southeast.

Meanwhile, in Belgrade, the ruling Socialist party dropped its attack on Milan Panic, the prime minister of rump Yugoslavia, and urged its 68 deputies not to back the vote of no confidence which they tabled on Monday after accusing Mr Panic of selling

out Serbia's interests in London last week. Dobrica Cosic, the Yugoslav president, urged the party not to press their vote against Mr Panic. His defeat after being installed as prime minister only a month ago would plunge the country into political turmoil.

Dr Karadzic promised at last week's London conference to turn over the heavy guns within 96 hours. Unprofor officials sounded unusually hopeful yesterday that the mechanics of implementing the agreement for UN supervision could be completed within 24 hours.

Under well-tested ceasefire practices, two military observers were to be sent to the area.

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Iraq jails round world cyclist for ten years

BY PETER VICTOR AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A BRITISH round-the-world cyclist has been jailed for ten years after being arrested for entering Iraq illegally.

Michael Wainwright, 42, of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, is understood to have been tried last week and sentenced on Monday. The Foreign Office described the sentence as "totally disproportionate" and said it would be demanding his release.

Mr Wainwright, who was heading for Australia, was seized when he crossed from Turkey into Iraq in May. He has been in prison since then, although the fact came to light only two weeks ago when he wrote a brief note saying: "They allowed me to cross the border, then they arrested me. My passport is in order. They said illegal entry without a visa, which I applied for."

Susan Priestley, one of Mr Wainwright's four sisters, said last night: "It's a savage sentence and we're all numb with shock. We knew in our hearts that Michael would be jailed, but we never thought in our worst nightmares that it could be for so long." Mrs Priestley said she could not understand why her brother had been sentenced to ten years, when two weeks earlier, another Briton had been jailed for seven for illegal entry. "It looks as though he is being used as a political pawn by Saddam," she said.

The latest clash of interest between the West and Baghdad came as the head of a United Nations weapons inspection team announced that Iraq's nuclear programme had been rendered harmless by allied bombing during the Gulf war and subsequent work by UN teams. "It [the programme] stands at zero now", Maurizio Zifferero, said.

Before last year's Gulf war, there were wide fears that Iraq might have been in a position to produce enough fissionable material by the mid-1990s to build three or four nuclear weapons a year, each with twice the explosive power of the one America dropped on Nagasaki.

Despite the Israeli destruction of Iraq's French-supplied Osirak reactor in 1981, President

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TODAY IN THE TIMES



A MAN OF HIS WORDS
How an insecure Trollope revealed himself in his fiction — plus Sheila Kitzinger and Enoch Powell in a books special
Life & Times pages 4 and 5

A WORD TO THE WISE



Don't mourn British drama — you have only to turn on the TV to find Maggie Smith and a host of stage stars in your living room
Life & Times, page 1

EATING HIS WORDS



While Gerald Ratner might wish he'd bitten his tongue, Bernard Levin wonders at the dangers and delights of a potent language
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Dutch treat ends in a £100,000 wet weekend

BY KERRY GILL

ANY foreigner who aspires to the life of a Scottish Highland laird with his own sporting estate should first cast an eye over the annual rainfall statistics, particularly for August.

Mark Diks, a Dutch bed manufacturer who paid £1.5 million for the 23,000-acre Ben Alder estate three weeks ago, failed to take this precaution and was left with the choice of losing his wife or £100,000.

Mr Diks, 36, always dreamed of owning his own Scottish estate, having enjoyed several hunting trips to the Highlands. Last month he took possession of the estate beside Loch Erchie, on the east side of the deserted Rannoch Moor. He, his wife Sandy, and two young children settled in for a two-week holiday at the 12-room Ben Alder lodge. The nightmare had begun. The first day it

rained, but then it rains in Holland too. Unfortunately for Mr Diks it rained every single day for the next fortnight. Mrs Diks decided the Scottish weather was unbearable and told her husband that it was either the sodden acres of Ben Alder or her. Mr Diks decided to keep his wife and has now put the estate back on the market for offers over £1.4 million, a loss of £100,000.

"It rained all the time, from morning to night. It just never stopped. My wife hated it," said Mr Diks, safely back home in Uden, the Netherlands, with Mrs Diks at his side. She refused to comment.

Other potential buyers must have checked the weather. Last summer the estate was put on the market for offers over £2.5 million. The threshold dropped to £1.75 million in April before Mr Diks bought the estate with its eight cottages, deer forest,

grouse moor and fishing rights. Guy Galbraith, of Savills, said: "This is very unusual. Never in my 20 years in this business have I heard of anyone reselling so quickly. We will now be going back to other bidders and people who were interested before. The estate is a very good business. The owner can let the houses and the deer stalking." Mr Galbraith added: "Although he was only there for a short time, Mr Diks was a caring employer. He has made it a condition of sale that the two staff are kept on."

Although August is traditionally a wet month in Scotland, the Diks family was unlucky. The recent storms were caused by some of the deepest lows in years. Indeed, last weekend saw the second deepest depression this century over northwest Scotland. The depression in the Diks' drawing room must have been even lower. Apparently Mrs Diks had been quite

keen on being a Scottish laird's wife when the subject of buying the estate first came up. It was only when she realised how gloomy the Highlands could be on a wet afternoon that she had second thoughts. The area, near the village of Dalwhinnie, has a magnificent beauty when the clouds part, leaving Loch Erchie bathed in silvery light. When the rain billows in from the west, visibility can be negligible.

Perhaps the Diks family should have looked for a more accessible estate. The road to the lodge passes down the north shore of Loch Erchie after leaving the main road close to the summit of Drumochter pass. The lodge is overlooked by Ben Alder, 3,757ft, and has an "escape route" to the north through the Ardsheil Forest. In winter, footwear more substantial than clogs would be needed to reach the estate as the area can be cut off by heavy snow.

SOME PEOPLE LIVE BY THE RULES. OTHERS BREAK THEM



FREDERICK FORSYTH THE DECEIVER

OUT NOW IN CORGI PAPERBACK



On the air: Classic FM broadcaster Susannah Simons will present an afternoon programme

Checkland defends himself and BBC against criticism

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

STUNG by criticism that the BBC lacked leadership at the most critical moment in its history, Sir Michael Checkland yesterday denied that he was a "limping" or "lame" director-general and vowed to remain in the post until his term ended at the end of February.

In a spirited defence of BBC policy he denied reports that Radios 2 and 5 would be scrapped and that the corporation would abandon whole areas of popular programming. Quiz shows would fall by the wayside, but the BBC would maintain its commitment to popular entertainment, including the £10 million soap *Eldorado*.

Despite criticism of the "BBC's naive deal" with BSkyB over Premier League soccer, he confirmed that the BBC was in negotiation with BSkyB for a joint 24-hour satellite news service.

He said the BBC's intention to aim for the high ground did not mean teetering on a "narrow ridge" with nothing but worthy programmes that only a small section of the population wanted to watch. "It means a high plateau. That is the only ground the BBC has ever fought on," Sir Michael's comments came in response to a scathing attack

by Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, on the BBC's "pseudo-Leninist management" and strategy of "political appeasement".

Sir Michael denied that the corporation was acting to appease the government in order to retain its licence fee and promised "a very clear vision" of the BBC's future in the changing context of the nineties, following the publication in early October of the government's green paper.

Denying that there was a vacuum of leadership at the top of the BBC as programme-makers waited for John Birt, his deputy and successor, to take over, Sir Michael said the policy document would present the views of both Mr Birt and himself, reflecting consultation with BBC's management, board and internal task forces, set up last year.

Although he and Mr Birt were "in tune" with the policies the corporation was adopting, Sir Michael admitted there would be "modifications" under Mr Birt, but denied these would be "wholesale changes". Sir Michael said Radio 4's *Today*: "I'm not limping, I'm not lame, I'm sprinting for the tape." On *BBC Breakfast News*, he said: "[The BBC] has been led in a positive and concerted way."

His remarks came as David Mellor, the heritage secretary, called for a "full and frank debate" on the future of the BBC before renewal of its royal charter in 1996. Mr Mellor, speaking in Edinburgh, said the BBC occupied a "special place in the nation's heart" but that the corporation's role must now be re-viewed as today's broadcasting environment was very different from the one in which the BBC was created.

Bryan Gould, the shadow heritage secretary, welcomed Sir Michael's "brave words" and added that it was encouraging that he recognised the dangers facing the BBC as a consequence of the government's broadcasting policy.

"The Tories have already delivered the ITV franchises over to businessmen whose only concern is to make money. The danger is that only these businessmen will be allowed to make popular programmes and the BBC will be limited to an elitist concern for minority programming. This would be to ignore the important truth that public service broadcasting means broadcasting of high quality for the public as a whole."

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Leading article, page 11

Critics impatient for strong signal

BBC governors are failing to tell friends or foes about the corporation's future role, Melinda Wittstock writes

BBC management has spent at least £10 million hiring dozens of consultancy firms to forecast what the future holds for British broadcasting. But the corporation, determined to safeguard its licence fee-funded empire in a newly-competitive television market place, has yet to transmit a clear signal about its future place in the broadcasting firmament.

Governors and senior management, attacked within the broadcasting establishment for obsessive secrecy and lack of leadership, have avoided articulating even the broadest of aims and values as the debate surrounding the renewal of its royal charter commences.

By the end of 1996 when the charter expires, the British radio and TV industry will be virtually unrecognisable. Alongside a more commercially-minded ITV, Channel 4 and a highly-localised Channel 5, will be a growing array of "narrowcast" cable and satellite channels.

By 1996, BSkyB's revenue will far surpass that allocated to BBC TV (£943 million last year), allowing it for the first time to invest in original production. Four years from now viewers in more than seven million homes — about 22 million people — will be hooked up to cable or satellite, independent forecasts from City analysts and media consultants suggest.

The BBC's response to the changing environment is crucial to what viewers and listeners will be offered on all channels and stations in the future. Standards of programme-making could fall in the commercial sector if the BBC abstains from direct competition by neglecting popular programming, yet quality

could also suffer if the BBC spreads its resources too thinly, rather than concentrating on weaknesses in its rivals' output and its own strengths.

This is at the heart of the debate, and even though Sir Michael Checkland, the outgoing director-general, yesterday responded to provocative criticisms made by Michael Grade about the corporation's quest for the "higher ground" by committing the BBC to broadcast "across the range of programming", many questions remain.

The public and demoralised BBC employees will be kept waiting until October after the publication of the government's green paper for the BBC's own "very clear vision" of itself in the changing context of the nineties. Even then, those anxious for some sign as to what John Birt, who takes over from Sir Michael next March, has in mind will have to wait.

Sir Michael insisted that he and Mr Birt were agreed on future BBC policies. But yesterday it was next to impossible to find a senior television executive or programme-maker who believes that Mr Birt does not have his own agenda for a significant shake-up which many suspect will be introduced at great speed next spring.

Even the BBC's most ardent defenders cannot understand why the corporation is taking such a short-term strategic view, particularly in its cosy new relationship with BSkyB, which is owned by News International, which also publishes *The Times*. In co-operating with BSkyB instead of ITV over Premier League football, the BBC has misjudged its true, long-term enemy, they say.

A-level debate revived

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EDUCATIONISTS and business leaders yesterday urged ministers not to lose sight of the widespread demand for A-level reform in their concern to maintain standards in GCSE examinations.

A report by the British Institute of Management calling for broader A levels won the support of teaching unions and head teachers, concerned that controversy over the GCSE would eclipse an equally urgent debate. Managers were said to want a new and broader qualification at 18, which could be attained by a third of school leavers, instead of the fifth who sit A levels.

More than half of the managers surveyed said they would be prepared to pay higher taxes if it would lead to improvements in the education system.

As the report was published, employers gave their support to GCSEs in spite of the doubts about standards expressed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate. The CBI said employers found the GCSE a better approach to assessing educational performance than O levels.

Pupils defiant, page 14

Classic FM rolls out its drivetime saccharine

Stephen Pettitt fears that a new radio station may turn serious music into low entertainment

THE launch of Classic FM began with a pilot sample of its drivetime output. It was all grotesquely saccharine. This selection of what the station calls "the most incredible variety of the world's most beautiful music" was nothing more than short samples that could have been lifted direct from *Your Hundred Best Tunes* — a Satie *Gymnopédie* here, a bit of Rossini there, that nice tune from Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. All were announced with a nice informality but with not a trace of the wit and informativeness promised for the real thing.

So what are the drivetime alternatives? Radio 3, which now comes close to this kind of easy listening, the rock stations, which are fine for those who like noise and idle nonsense, or the chat of Radio 4 or LBC, which at least tell you more about what is going on in the world.

Classic FM's purpose is, of course, to make money (the station is up on its advertising targets). But culturally the station's effect, unless it is careful, will only be to contribute to the relegation of the status of serious music from high art to low entertainment (I make no apology for the hierarchy implicit in that). Such a suspicion is fuelled by a glance at the schedules: we will have "gig guides" rather than plain old concert guides, for instance, and Henry Kelly's three-hour morning weekday show includes a *Hum Line* (for identifying by melody which has been nagging at you all morning) and a *racing tip*.

Paul Gambaccini, meanwhile, presents a weekly *Classic CD Chart* and on Sunday *Classic Romance*, at nine in the morning, promises "music for lovers, flowers for the lucky ones".

Yet under questioning Michael Bukht, the station's programme controller, was eager to present a more serious side. Each weekday evening at 11, for instance, there will be an hour's worth of live chamber music from the Classic FM studio, given by young musicians. There are promised relays, live and otherwise, of orchestral concerts, and apparently a deal is in the offing to broadcast live opera from major houses around the world.

Young music, Mr Bukht says, will also be served; but the single hour late on Sunday night called *Contemporary Classics* looks like a tokenistic gesture, and the alternative title does not augur well.

The station starts broadcasting at 6.30am next Monday, with Handel's *God Save The King*. It will broadcast on frequencies on 100-102 MHz and the transmitters will cover 80 per cent of the UK immediately and the remaining 20 per cent by the end of the year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TUC chiefs vote on electricians' return

Leaders of the Trades Union Congress are expected to vote to readmit the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union (EETPU) today, four years after it was suspended in a row over allegedly poaching members from other unions (Ross Tienan writes). Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "I am confident we shall move towards a position for full affiliation." He emphasised that there were many issues to be settled. But the return of the electricians to the TUC fold would remove the threat that right-wing unions might form an alternative federation.

The electricians were suspended after refusing to accept the findings of two TUC disciplinary hearings which concluded that the union had breached the TUC's Bridlington rules on recruitment. Yesterday Mr Willis said that the electricians must be prepared to abide by TUC rules. The rapprochement has arisen due to an agreement between the EETPU and the Amalgamated Engineering Union, a congress member, to merge. The new union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, is seeking TUC membership for its new electrical section.

Bank loans challenge

Britain's beleaguered small business community is considering a legal challenge to the high street banks for placing in jeopardy the future of thousands of companies by unilaterally changing the terms of loan agreements. The Federation of Small Businesses, which says that 1,200 are going under each week in the recession, is examining its files in an attempt to launch a test case in the High Court. How such a challenge might be mounted is unclear, however, as the 1974 Consumer Credit Act, which was intended to stop unfair practices in the provision of credit, specifically does not apply to banks. This suggests that the federation might have to challenge on basic contractual principles, perhaps trying to prove that duress had been exerted or misrepresentation used to induce companies to enter into agreements.

Dispute at papers

Journalists on *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph* have voted to take industrial action, short of a strike, in protest at the management's refusal to recognise their union. Local officials of the National Union of Journalists will now consider when to launch the action, which could include a work-to-rule and go-slow, following yesterday's ballot result. John Foster, NUJ national organiser, said: "Our *Telegraph* members have shown their determination not to let the management trample on their human rights to organise and be represented at work." The NUJ represents 200 journalists on the two national newspapers, about half the total.

Health care rationed

Health care rationing has already been introduced in some parts of the country, according to a survey of 20 directors of public health. Half said their health authority had looked at cutting whole services, including in-vitro fertilisation clinics or tattoo removal, while a quarter said that their health authority was considering limiting the scope of services by measures which included the imposition of age limits on patients. The survey, which was published yesterday in the *British Medical Association's News Review*, shows that 18 out of the 20 public health directors contacted had started, or were planning, public consultation on health care priorities.

Conference dispute



An invitation to Alessandra Mussolini, left, granddaughter of the Italian fascist leader, to address a fringe meeting at the Conservative conference in Brighton next month, has started fierce political opposition. Labour MPs have called on Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to ban her from Britain and some Tories have urged Sir Norman Fowler, party chairman, to stop the meeting.

Art dealer jailed

An art dealer who flooded the London antiques market with counterfeit paintings and artefacts was jailed yesterday for a year. John Fairchild tricked specialists at leading dealers, including Sotheby's, Christie's and Phillips, into selling items which he claimed were worth thousands of pounds. *Southwark Crown Court* was told, Fairchild was the brains behind a "sophisticated" north London forgery ring. Often using false names, he sold items including paintings purportedly by Noel Coward, silver spoons by Fabergé and commemorative cigarette cases by Tiffany's. Fairchild admitted seven charges of attempting to obtain property by deception and two of obtaining property by deception.

Union told to end strike

The local government trade union Nalco yesterday was refused a stay of an injunction ordering it to end a strike which has disrupted services in the London borough of Newham. Nalco is appealing against an order made by the High Court on Tuesday when Newham Council was granted an injunction to end the month-long strike after ruling that it was "clearly arguable" that the union had "promoted" the strike call before the ballot on industrial action took place at the end of July and was therefore in breach of trades union legislation. The strike was an escalation of a dispute which began in January when Newham made three officers in the poll tax collection department compulsorily redundant.

BMA sex guidelines

Doctors are to be given advice on what to do if they believe a colleague is having sex with a patient. Guidelines are being drawn up by the British Medical Association and will be published next year. Anne Somerville, secretary of the BMA's ethics committee, said: "Doctors need to know what their duties are if a colleague is either having an affair, abusing a vulnerable patient, sexually harassing or sexually molesting a patient." There is growing concern about relationships between doctors and those that they treat. A recent survey of 1,500 American psychiatrists showed that 7 per cent of the men and 3 per cent of the women admitted sexual contact with their patients.

Gold necklaces stolen

Thieves have stolen two gold necklaces which may be part of the treasure discovered in the tomb of Tutankhamun in Egypt 70 years ago. The necklaces encrusted with lapis lazuli and amethysts were among jewellery and other items left in bags taken from a car in Wandsworth, south London, on Monday night. The necklaces are said to have come into the family of Caroline Gracie, whose car was broken into, from someone involved with the original dig at the tomb in 1922. Sketches of the missing necklaces have been sent by police to experts at the British Museum who say that although the necklaces could be valuable, they do not appear to date from the time of the tomb.

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'Killer played baseball with bat used to club student'

By DAVID YOUNG

AN OXFORD graduate was dubbed to death with a baseball bat because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time, a jury at the Old Bailey was told yesterday. His killer, the prosecution alleged, later played baseball with the murder weapon.

John Lavender, 28, died of head injuries after he was beaten for no reason with a baseball bat by a "young thug out looking for trouble", said Martin Heslop, for the prosecution.

Mark Paul, 20, a jewellery salesman of Battersea, south London, denies murdering Mr Lavender, an Oxford history graduate who was studying for his Master of Arts at

the City of London University. He was also working as an insurance agent.

The court was told that Mr Lavender was a few hundred yards from his home, making his way down an alley off Battersea High Street, when he was struck with a single blow to the back of his head at about 12.15am on September 5 last year.

Mr Heslop said: "Mr Lavender was minding his own business and walking home following a night out. For no apparent motive Mr Paul ran up behind him and struck a single, vicious, unprovoked blow to the back of the head. It caused such severe injuries that Mr Lavender died 12 hours later."

The jury was told that Mr Paul and a friend ran off, leaving Mr Lavender to die. "Lavender was found by three young men. Somehow he had made his way to a doorway. The young men noticed a clump of blood and hair near a lamp-post. He was conscious, mumbling incoherently, shaking and having convulsions."

"Such was Paul's concern, although he knew the very next day that Lavender had died, he was prepared to play baseball with this very weapon the following Sunday," said Mr Heslop, holding the bat up to the jury.

Police, acting on a tip-off, arrested Mr Paul six days after the attack. Mr Heslop said that he admitted that he and his friend Andrew Christie, 21, had gone out "looking for trouble" after drinking five to six pints of lager and smoking cannabis.

The court was told that Mr Paul and Mr Christie had been to Chelsea for a meal and a drink. They returned to their flat shortly before 11pm. They decided to go out again to look for a fight. Mr Christie hid the baseball bat up the sleeve of his jacket and the pair began prowling the streets.

Mr Lavender, a single man, had been out with a female work colleague for a meal and was returning to his flat in Battersea. The two men saw their victim and stalked him until he turned into the alley.

A recording of a statement Mr Paul made to the police was played to the jury. In it, he said that he ran up behind Mr Lavender and dealt him a double-handed blow to the back of the head. "I just thought it was like a little tap on the head and he would be all right," he said. "I can't even explain the reason why I did it. He was just a bloke walking along on his own. I just hit him once and he fell on the ground."

"I can't even explain the reason why I did it. I went into the house and I just fell to pieces. I didn't know what to do."

The trial continues today.

Insolvent peer vows to recover his fortune

By CRAIG SETON

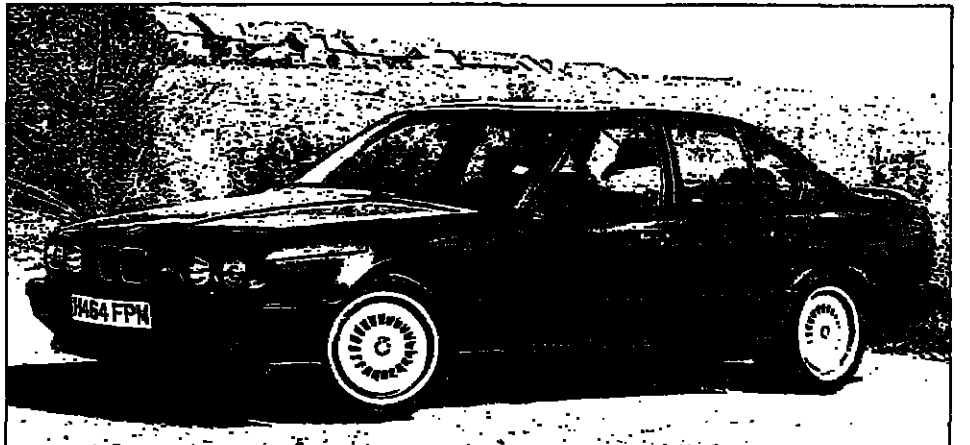
LORD Beaverbrook, the former Conservative party treasurer who is unable to pay his creditors, is determined to fight back and restore his finances, Gillian Benning, his solicitor said yesterday.

She said talks were being held with creditors in an attempt to pay off his undisclosed debts without the need for proceedings. Lord Beaverbrook, 40, was a victim of the recession and was upset at his predicament, but still remained a loyal Conservative, she said.

Miss Benning believed Lord Beaverbrook's work as Tory treasurer until earlier this year had contributed to his plight. "He worked extremely hard for the party last year and raised £38 million for it. He was working 18 hours a day and I do not think that can have helped anything, but he will not hear a word said against him," she said.

The scale of Lord Beaverbrook's debts has not been disclosed. A nominee has been appointed under the Insolvency Act to act for him during attempts to make voluntary arrangements to pay his creditors. This move effectively freezes proceedings to recover debts while talks are held with his creditors.

Lord Beaverbrook is the



Hard times: Lord Beaverbrook, his seventeenth-century home and his £40,000 BMW car which has been repossessed

grandson of the former owner of the Daily Express and the son of Sir Max Aitken. He and his wife and four children live in the seventeenth-century Denchworth Manor in Oxfordshire.

Lord Beaverbrook, a former Home Office and trade and industry spokesman in the Lords, was well known in the village for his involvement with expensive classic cars, which may have contrib-

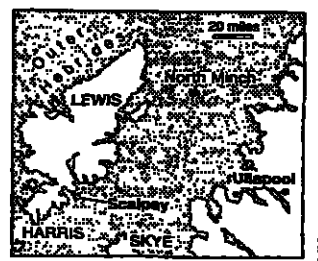
uted to his financial plight. He is thought to have kept four Ferraris.

There was no confirmation yesterday of reports that several of his seven full-time staff, which include a house-

keeper, a cook, an au pair, a groom and gardeners may lose their jobs.

Villagers said that Lord Beaverbrook had helped to save the village church, which had been in need of repair,

and always displayed his Ferraris at the village fête. One villager, Jim Smith, 56, said: "The whole village is surprised and saddened by what has happened. No one had any idea this was coming."



Islanders plead for lifeline

By KERRY GILL

ONE of Britain's most remote communities is concerned that unless the government gives consent to a bridge linking it with the Outer Hebrides island of Lewis and Harris the population could be halved within the next 20 years.

Scalpay is a tiny island off the southern tip of Harris whose numbers have dwindled to only 440 over the past 20 years, due largely to the collapse of herring fishing. The community argues that a bridge to Harris would not only save the island itself but also would save £1.7 million of taxpayers' money, used to subsidise the ferry and educational and medical services.

Donald Macdonald, a councillor, yesterday said that the bridge could be started in 1994 if the government gave consent and came up with the necessary £4 million. Costings, carried out by Western Isles Council by a firm of consultants, has shown that once a bridge was completed there would be an annual saving of £1.7 million a year.

"I was appalled to find that so much money was being spent on keeping the ferry service," Mr Macdonald said. "My ward has suffered the biggest depopulation of any ward in the Western Isles. Young people are moving away."

Democratic jail cuts new crimes

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MEN who have been held in a jail whose regime is based on therapy are less likely to re-offend than those from other prisons, according to the results of an unpublished survey.

A study of 215 men serving fixed sentences who had been held in Grendon prison, near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, found that 33 per cent had re-offended within two years of leaving jail, compared with rates of more than 40 per cent for those from other jails.

All activities at the jail are therapy-based, with groups of prisoners meeting regularly to challenge each other about their upbringing, criminal history and personal behaviour. The wings are run on democratic principles and prisoners can vote to send an inmate to another prison for breaking rules that ban violence, sex and drugs.

A report on Grendon by Judge Tumm, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, is to be published today. The judge, who has criticised other jails, said Grendon was an "impressive establishment where standards of care, humanity and dignity were of the highest order".

Easy cervical swab can give warning of premature birth

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE lives of thousands of premature babies could be saved by a simple swab test which predicts impending birth. The early warning test should be given to all women at risk so that action can be taken to delay birth and reduce complications, doctors at Hammersmith Hospital, in west London, said yesterday.

More than 50,000 of the 800,000 babies born each year in the UK are premature and half of their mothers show no early symptoms. The new test successfully predicted 90 per cent of premature deliveries in clinical trials in the United States, however.

Premature birth is the main cause of perinatal mortality and illness: 2,500 babies die

each year, according to Professor Murdoch Elder, dean of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School Institute of obstetrics and gynaecology, whose department at the Hammersmith Hospital has been investigating the syndrome. Mothers at risk include teenagers, smokers, women who have given birth prematurely before and those under extreme mental or physical stress.

The test involves a cervical swab at two-week intervals between 24 and 34 weeks of pregnancy. If a protein called foetal fibronectin is detected the mother is likely to deliver within two weeks. Foetal fibronectin, which helps to fasten the fertilised egg to the

mother's womb, cannot cross into the vagina after 20 weeks unless the foetal membranes are broken or damaged. Professor Elder said: "Biochemical indication of membrane activation should be extremely useful in helping to detect women who are at risk of a premature delivery. Appropriate steps could then be taken to minimise the risk."

Doctors can give women drugs to suppress uterine contractions or antibiotics to combat infection, another cause of premature delivery. If birth is unavoidable, the mother may be given steroid injections to develop the baby's lungs and improve its chances of survival. Professor Elder said that negative tests could also assure women and doctors that birth was not imminent.

More than 30 studies of the test are being carried out in America, and in Britain trials are under way at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, and at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Frank Levy, of Mast Diagnostics, which will distribute the tests in Britain, denied a screening programme would be too costly to run. A bedside test costing less than £24 would give results in less than ten minutes, while a laboratory test would cost £8. Mr Levy compared this to the £7,000 a week cost to the NHS of intensive care treatment for a premature baby.



Little life: Murdoch Elder checking Pamela Ortega

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	1000mm Full Height Wall Unit	£144.99	£115.99
	1000mm 19-Line Base Unit	£159.99	£127.99
70% OFF OXFORD	300mm Full Height Wall Unit	£149.99	£109.99
	1000mm Full Height Wall Unit	£264.99	£211.99
	1000mm 19-Line Base Unit	£329.99	£263.99
60% OFF YORK	300mm Full Height Wall Unit	£59.99	£47.99
	1000mm Full Height Wall Unit	£104.99	£83.99
	1000mm 19-Line Base Unit	£129.99	£103.99
70% OFF LANGDALE	300mm Full Height Wall Unit	£109.99	£87.99
	1000mm Full Height Wall Unit	£179.99	£143.99
	1000mm 19-Line Base Unit	£209.99	£167.99
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Heart attack deaths would be halved, congress told

On-the-spot GP aid 'can save thousands'

FROM JEREMY LAURANCE IN BARCELONA

THE lives of thousands of heart attack victims could be saved if they were treated on the spot by GPs rather than waiting until they reached hospital to receive drug therapy, new research suggests.

About 465 people die every day in Britain from heart attacks and two thirds are dead before they reach hospital, but a study of 100 GPs in Grampian, Scotland, who were provided with equipment and drugs to treat heart attack victims immediately at home showed that they reduced the death rate by half.

Professor John Rawles of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, said the findings had immediate implications for GPs in other country areas where patients lived a long way from a hospital. Even in towns there was a strong argument for GPs to provide immediate drug treatment because of the long delays many patients experienced on arrival at inner city accident and emergency departments. "There are big

problems of getting rapid treatment in hospitals and this is one way round them."

GPs in the study were provided with anistreplase, a "clot busting" drug, to be given by injection to heart attack victims. Fears that they might misdiagnose patients and give the drugs to people suffering from other conditions such as ulcers, with potentially fatal consequences, were not borne out.

Presenting the results yesterday to the fourteenth congress of the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Barcelona, Professor Rawles said the GPs gave good care with rapid treatment and accurate clinical assessment. Only seven out of 311 patients treated over two years were misdiagnosed, without serious consequences.

For the study, GPs were given pairs of ampoules, one containing the drug and one containing a placebo, randomly marked to be given at home or sent with the patient

to be given in hospital. Those injected at home received the drug on average two hours before those in hospital.

The results, to be published in this week's *British Medical Journal*, show that of the 148 patients given the drug in hospital 16 per cent died compared with 8 per cent of the 163 patients treated at home. "Giving the drug an hour earlier makes a major difference," Professor Rawles said. The improvement was even more marked where the drug was given within two hours of the initial attack.

A drug which prevents the deterioration of the heart after a heart attack has been shown to boost long-term survival. The death rate among over 2000 patients given the drug Captopril after an initial attack was reduced by 20 per cent, according to results from the American Save trial presented to the Barcelona meeting yesterday and published in this week's *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Athletes at risk from training

ATHLETES who strive to keep in peak condition may be putting themselves at risk. Sudden deaths among top sportsmen have raised questions about the danger of strenuous training (Jeremy Laurance writes).

Doctors believe that in some athletes the training may result in an overdeveloped heart or trigger a pre-existing condition which can cause sudden heart failure.

Such deaths are rare but the athletes who succumb are often found to be suffering from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a disorder in which the walls of the heart are greatly thickened. Training leads to thickening so that the heart can pump more strongly. Celia Oakley, of Hammer-smith Hospital, west London, said: "The question is whether this adaptive hypertrophy can itself be dangerous."

Half the people with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy have a genetic defect but in others it lies dormant. Athletic training may provoke its development, Dr Oakley said.



First encounter: Karl Maxwell-Smith, a British engineer released from a Thai prison after being jailed for 100 years, meets his granddaughter Jessica, 2, for the first time. He arrived in London yesterday after serving five years of the

sentence, imposed for murder after his girl friend Peranorn Sauechaisri, 32, fell from a balcony. Mr Maxwell-Smith, 62, was freed under an amnesty on the sixtieth birthday of Queen Sirikit. Speaking at the home of his son in

Ashford, Kent, he said he could prove his innocence and had been prosecuted only because he refused to pay police a £6,000 bribe. He had asked Mr Major for help in clearing his name and hoped to secure a royal pardon in Thailand.

Driver blamed for rail crash that killed two

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TWO people died and 542 were injured in the Cannon Street rail crash in London in January 1991 because the train driver failed "to make a proper brake application", according to the official report into the accident, published yesterday.

Tests failed to reveal any mechanical failure which would account for the accident, leaving human error as the only likely cause of the crash, the report said. Insufficient evidence exists to explain why Maurice Graham, the driver, failed to apply the brakes properly. Traces of cannabis were found in his blood when tests were taken three days after the accident. The report said there was "some degree of similarity" between the effects of the drug, including a distortion of time-scales and a failure to respond rapidly to danger signals, and the reactions of the driver.

Alan Cooksey, the deputy chief inspecting officer of railways, who conducted the Health and Safety Executive's investigation, said: "I can find no defect in either the braking or traction system, either permanent or intermittent, which could have prevented the brakes from operating effectively. Therefore I must conclude that Mr Graham failed to make the proper brake

application and that by his omission he was responsible for the accident." Mr Cooksey said that he was unable "to reach any firm conclusion as to the reasons for his error or as to whether Mr Graham's use of cannabis was the cause of his omission".

Mr Cooksey said that while the age and condition of the carriages did not contribute to the cause of the accident, their antiquated design "did result in more severe damage to the rolling stock and an increase both in the severity and number of injuries".

Although dismissing claims that overcrowding on British Rail trains is unsafe, Mr Cooksey said: "The large number of passengers injured in this accident was due in part, though not solely, to the number of passengers standing in the front coaches of the train."

The report drew up 15 recommendations designed to help prevent or reduce the consequences of buffer stop collisions at stations. These included a review of driver training, the introduction of automatic train protection technology, the installation of more robust buffer stops and the prompt withdrawal of antiquated rolling stock. Mr Cooksey said that BR's driver training programmes should include instruction in what to do when something goes wrong, in an effort to help drivers to deal with unexpected emergencies. Also, trains approaching stations should not be permitted to travel any faster than the maximum speed the buffer stop would absorb.

New technology for monitoring train approach speeds and overriding driver error should be installed "as quickly as is reasonably practicable", Mr Cooksey said. "The priority for installation should take account of the density of traffic into the various terminal stations," he added.



Graham failed to apply the brakes properly

Greenpeace attacks sea pollution policy

BY RONALD FAUK

THE environmental group Greenpeace accused the government yesterday of having a policy of "legal pollution" which has allowed marine wildlife to be poisoned and placed the Irish sea in crisis.

In an attack on the consent system operated by the National Rivers Authority (NRA), it said industry had been allowed to discharge dangerous chemicals into rivers and seas. Latest government figures showed that UK discharges of chemicals including mercury, cadmium and lead were higher in the Irish Sea than in the North Sea, it claimed.

Greenpeace said that a talk by Jan Pentreath, the NRA's chief scientist, to the British Association for the Advancement of Science last week had revealed that current regulations could not ensure protection of the marine environment. This was because insufficient information was available about toxic and per-

sistent chemicals which could be discharged.

A recently leaked internal NRA memo revealed that the government intended that the most polluting industrial plants would no longer be monitored by the authority, Greenpeace said. Instead, companies would be relied on to police themselves, overseen by the Pollution Inspectorate.

The NRA later defended its record on discharges into the Irish Sea, in particular from the Mersey, saying that significant reductions had been achieved and steady progress would continue despite calls from Greenpeace for discharges to cease immediately.

Chris Harpley, the authority's regional general manager, said discharges into the environment were a fact of modern life but strict limits were set. "The NRA is constantly reviewing these consents and putting pressure on industrialists to improve effluent treatment," he said.

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Public to
avoid bu
savings-l
life insur

COMMISSION

DIY virus
Kills menace
computers

Public told to avoid buying savings-link life insurance

By PETER VICTOR

PEOPLE taking out life insurance should avoid policies with savings elements, the Consumers' Association says today. Even those who want investment-type policies because of tax advantages to their savings should avoid them unless they know they can keep up the payments.

Life insurance should be kept separate from investments, the association says in the latest issue of its *Which?* magazine. Many people have endowment mortgages or policies which, in the past, have produced good investment returns. Payments on such policies are now falling and life insurance also faces competition from new investment schemes such as personal equity plans.

Eighteen per cent of policyholders cash in their policies during the first year. They lost £165 million on wasted premiums in 1990.

Life policies were sold strongly by advisers, banks and building societies as well as insurance companies during the 1970s and 1980s. Many unsuitable policies were sold during this time, according to the association.

Which? recommends that most people buy a straight term assurance policy. That is taken out for a fixed period and if the insured person dies within that time the money will be paid to his or her dependants. It is cheap for people who are young and healthy. Some policies can increase to keep pace with inflation or decrease to cover a reducing commitment, such as a mortgage.

Whole life insurance, which lasts the whole of the insured person's life, costs more than term assurance and makes sense only if dependants are likely to need cover for the rest of the assured person's life. It usually costs more than term assurance but policyholders are likely to get something back if they cash it in after some time.

Flexible cover plans are unit linked and policyholders can decide how much of their premiums go on life cover and how much is invested. *Which?* says that the cover is flexible but the customer is still locked

into an investment. Endowment policies are mainly for investment, with some life protection. Low cost and low start variants are normally linked to mortgages. The association says that those are worth considering if customers really want to save through life insurance, unlike maximum investment plans which are only useful to the higher rate taxpayer who has used up the capital gains tax and PEP allowance.

Single premium bonds contain no element of life insurance and are purely an investment. Should the policyholder die, the company returns the value of the investment. There is no set term, but policyholders may lose out if they cash them within four years.

The association says tax-free withdrawals of up to a twentieth of the investment are useful, as is the comparatively cheap cost of switching funds to another unit-linked policy. Otherwise, such bonds have no more to offer than a unit or investment trust.

Life insurance was a good investment during the boom selling period of the 1970s and 1980s only if a customer kept paying for the full life of the policy. Customers are unlikely to get anything back if they cancel in the first few years. As an investment, the policies compare poorly to more conventional unit trusts. But customers should not surrender life policies unless they have to.

Nearly two thirds of Post Office staff questioned by the Consumers' Association could not answer fully basic questions on the services they provided. Almost one in five (18 per cent) answered questions completely wrongly, according to a survey published in *Which?*

According to researchers who visited 174 Crown and sub-post offices in England, Scotland and Wales, nearly one in ten Post Office employees were rude and unhelpful. Only one in three questions asked were answered in full.

One in seven replied incorrectly when asked the cheapest way to guarantee 24-hour delivery of a letter in the UK.

COMMISSION ON LIFE POLICIES

How much of policy contributions go to pay for financial help

Type of policy	Av up-front comm paid to* independent advisers	Firms representing one insurer
Term insur £200m paid into 10yr policy	307	356
Term insur £200m paid into 25yr policy	332	388
Endowment insur £500m paid into 10yr policy	234	276
Endowment insur £500m paid into 25yr policy	498	570
Unit-linked bond £1,000 invested	52	58
Unit trust £1,000 invested	31	32

* Small annual commissions are paid on regular premium policies after the first few years
Source: *Which?*

DIY virus kits menace computers

By KERRY GILL

THE emergence of computer virus "construction tool-kits" allows relatively inexperienced vandals to write their own virus and cause havoc among sophisticated computer systems. First produced in Germany, the tool-kits are now more dangerous than ever. Jan Hruska told the second International Virus Bulletin conference in Edinburgh.

Dr Hruska, the technical director of Sophos, the Oxford-based computer design partnership, said that in the past three years the number of computer viruses had increased from a dozen to 1,700. The most common was Form, which had spread from Switzerland and could be activated on the eighteenth of every month. In the first half of this year it accounted for almost 22 per cent of viruses. Others were Jerusalem, Fu Manchu, Tequila, Michelangelo and Yankee.

"With the current practice to rely on back-ups against virus-caused damage to data, the most serious threat are viruses which cause gradual and random data corruption," Dr Hruska said. "By the time that a user realises that corruption has taken place, all his back-ups could be corrupted."

While it was difficult to write a virus, it was easier to form a mutation. The emergence of new tool-kits, however, was one of the most insidious developments within the hackers' armoury.

Pinkerton joins BT on trail of first loves

Telephone subscribers are being encouraged to play the amateur detective. Bill Frost studies the clues

URGES to see an old school friend or the person who stole your heart all those years ago are commonplace compulsions. BT has discovered from a survey. Profiting from that knowledge, the company is poised to tap into Britain's increasing love affair with things nostalgic.

With the help of the Pinkerton detective agency, BT has produced a guide aimed at encouraging long-separated lovers and old school friends to telephone each other.

"Whether you've simply let things drift for too long or you've actually lost your friends' numbers and addresses, why not let the phone help you to arrange an exciting reunion?" the guide suggests seductively. But let the questing nostalgic beware: a single call to directory enquiries will cost around 45p.

Amateur detectives will soon realise that tracing people can be fun but at times frustrating, the guide book says. "But don't despair if you arrive at a dead end, there will always be other avenues to try" and, of course, more phone calls to make.

David Bicknell of Pinkerton's said: "Logic, common

sense and a good memory are the key ingredients of a successful search, but it can be made easier if you know where to start. A look through the telephone directories can often be all that is required."

If memory and the directory service should fail, a caller can start contacting the friend's parents, the friend's friends or friends of friends. Why not call your old school?

Was the lover or school chum keen on sports? A tennis player or golfer? Ring the Lawn Tennis Association, golf clubs and, if all else fails, the Sports Council.

But what to do should one unearth good old Stinky Potter of the upper fifth or the teenage flame a few decades on? Anne Hooper, a sexologist and agony aunt who contributed to the guide, said: "I warn people to think very carefully before picking up the phone. The long-lost love syndrome can be dangerous. A wonderful lover in the past may now be middle-aged and married with three children."

The *Phone Detective's Guide to Getting Back In Touch* (available free from today by calling 0800 800 864)

Sale threat hangs over architectural gem

The National Trust is fighting to acquire a key modern home. Nicholas Watt writes

THE architect Ernő Goldfinger's house in Hampstead, northwest London, unaltered since he designed it in 1939, could be sold unless the National Trust raises at least £200,000 by November.

The late architect's family have given the house to the trust in lieu of death duties, but only £300,000 of the £784,000 costs of taking on the house have so far been raised. The trust's finance committee has set a deadline of November to raise a further £200,000.

Goldfinger lived in the house, one in a row of three in Willow Road, until his death in 1987 at the age of 85. His wife, Ursula, lived there until her death last year.

Martin Drury, the trust's deputy director general, said yesterday that the house, which has works by Man Ray and Max Ernst, would become a mecca for architecture students. "It is a fragment of 1930s cultural life, a window through which future generations can look at the 20th century," he said. "Such modern architecture is the historic architecture of tomorrow."

Goldfinger's son Michael said it was sad to give the house away. "But our family will still be able to visit. We would make more money selling the house on the open



Turning heads: Michael Goldfinger on the staircase in the London home his father designed and lived in

market, but we want to preserve the house with its important works of art," he said.

Goldfinger, whose work was described as "Stalin's architecture as it should have been", was most renowned for modernist buildings such as Alexander Fleming House, the social security department's headquarters in Elephant and Castle, south

London. His works were revered and admired in equal measure, and the houses in Willow Road, overlooking Hampstead Heath, were no exception. Local people were horrified by the project, which involved demolishing four 18th-century cottages. Ian Fleming, the author, was said to have been so upset he named his villainous character after the architect.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Murdered couple are buried

Hundreds of mourners attended the funeral yesterday of Matthew Manwaring, 62, and his daughter Alison, 24, who were murdered and buried in a shallow grave in a garden in Abbey Wood, south-east London, four months ago.

Around 500 family and friends gathered for the funeral service at Our Lady of Compassion Catholic church at Upton Park, east London.

Among the mourners were Alison's fiancé, Gordon Heals, 30, and Det Supt Michael Morgan, who has led the police investigation. Four people have appeared before magistrates charged in connection with the murders.

Fraud arrests

A number of insurance staff were arrested after raids on homes in the North West by police investigating false third party claims worth £1 million. The fraud is believed to be centred on a General Accident office in Lancashire.

Bird attraction

Hundreds of birdwatchers have visited the North Norfolk Naturalists' Trust reserve at Holme, near Hunstanton, to see the first Ruppell's warbler spotted in Britain.

Bond winner

September's £250,000 National Savings Premium Bonds prize winner is bond number 412 141882. The holder lives in Worthing, West Sussex.

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Effort to break Middle East deadlock

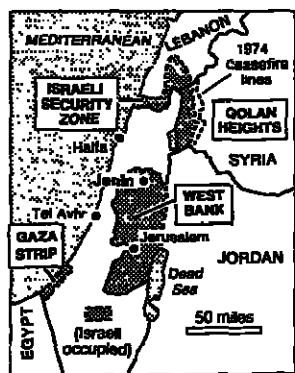
Palestinians propose 10 steps to self-rule

FROM REUTERS IN WASHINGTON

THE Palestinians have proposed to Israel a 10-point framework for an agreement on self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the central issue in the Middle East peace process.

Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said here that her team submitted the proposal on Tuesday, with a suggestion to form an immediate working group on human rights. "There was a very bold decision... to try to open several different avenues all at once in order to prevent or to end any deadlock or impasse," she stated.

Elyakim Rubinstein, Israel's chief negotiator, said his delegation still wanted to set up working groups to negotiate the details of self-rule, and if this happened the topics the Palestinians wanted to raise could be discussed as well. "If we go into this with a balanced approach, dealing with issues



everyone wants to discuss... that is the way to do it," Mr Rubinstein said.

Mrs Ashrawi said the Palestinians' 10-point framework was based on a document submitted in an earlier round "but of course with modifications and taking into account some of the Israeli concerns and proposals". She listed the points as:

ernment arrangements, stating that they are transitional for a five-year interim period while a final settlement is negotiated:

- elections to self-rule body;
- jurisdiction of the self-rule body, stating that it would have authority over land as well as people;
- withdrawal of Israeli military forces to agreed security locations and dismantling of Israeli military government;
- Jerusalem, the eastern part of which Israel occupied in 1967, declared to be part of its eternal capital and not discussed in current peace talks;
- Israeli settlements in occupied territories;
- return of displaced persons and deportees;
- security arrangements, including a police force;
- supervision and resolution of disputes through a standing committee;
- time-frame: self-rule, due to begin at end of October, could be delayed for three months because of the pace of the negotiations.

Israel is also negotiating with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. All the talks have tackled substance in this round, the first to be held since a more flexible Labour government came to power in Israel, but little actual progress has been made. Bushra Kanafani, the Syrian spokeswoman, said earlier this week: "The areas of agreement are very limited and do not touch on the basics. The areas of disagreement are numerous and touch on the basics of the peace process." Talks between Israel and Jordan remained nearly deadlocked over an agenda. Marwan Muasher, the Jordanian spokesman, said the Israelis had defined some issues relating to refugees and Jewish settlements as "too sensitive" to include. Souheil Chammas, the Lebanese chief delegate, said he had made fresh proposals on Tuesday but gave no details.

The talks continue today but then look likely to recess until September 14 while the Israelis go home to consult their government. An Israeli spokeswoman said Israel had proposed the recess and Arab delegates said it was likely but not yet formally agreed.

● Tel Aviv: Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, said yesterday that he expected agreement within a year on a plan for Palestinian self-rule in Israeli-occupied lands.

"I have said in the past that I hope to reach agreement within nine to 12 months. With all the difficulties, I still believe it," Mr Rabin told industrialists. His spokesman confirmed that the Israeli prime minister was speaking of negotiations on self-rule for the 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Mr Rabin took office in July promising to accelerate Arab-Israeli peace talks which resumed in Washington last month. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 11

Husain works to heal Saudi rift

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN AMMAN

KING Husain of Jordan's attack on sanctions-busting to Iraq and his public criticism of President Saddam Hussein are paving the way for a reconciliation with Saudi Arabia, Western diplomats in Amman said yesterday.

"The Saudis will never love the king, but they will now invite him back into the tent," according to the diplomats.

Saudi Arabia, once an important aid donor to Jordan, cut the purse strings during the Gulf conflict last year when King Husain refused to join the coalition against Iraq. Relations were further soured by accusations that Saudi Arabia was sponsoring Islamic fundamentalists in Jordan and rivalry between the two monarchs over financing the restoration of Islamic shrines in east Jerusalem.

Saudi Arabia had cold-shouldered Jordanian attempts at reconciliation until King Husain was taken to America last month for surgery to remove a kidney and a cancerous tumour in his urinary tract. Prince Bandar bin Sulaiman, Saudi ambassador in Washington, visited him in hospital. "The Saudis looked out over the abyss of a world without King Husain and saw the prospect was not that good," one Western diplomat commented.

In America, King Husain also criticised the Iraqi leader publicly for the first time in remarks welcomed privately by American and Saudi officials. "It is beyond me to comprehend why we still have in different parts of the world, maybe in our region, people who think of themselves first at the expense of their people and their suffering. I am really

saddened by that," the king said when asked about the no-fly ban imposed by the Western coalition over southern Iraq. He added: "I have never supported an individual leader in our region, I have always been concerned for the people of our region."

The United States worked hard to intercede between Amman and Riyadh after Jordan took a determined stand against sanctions-busting to Iraq two months ago. Jordan, still the main umbilical cord to Baghdad for food and humanitarian goods allowed under UN sanctions, was also a conduit for illegal trade to Iraq that helped prop up Saddam's regime.

"Jordan is recognised to have made a real effort on sanctions-busting, and one result was Prince Bandar's visit," another Western diplomat said.

There is strong opposition in Jordan to the allied air exclusion zone over southern Iraq, but enthusiasm for Saddam has waned. The giant portraits of the Iraqi leader brandished by protesters last year were conspicuously absent earlier this week in the first demonstration against the no-fly zone and the mood was subdued rather than combative.

There is genuine concern that the allies' plans will help create a Shia enclave in southern Iraq which Iran will use to destabilise other countries in the Arab world. Some Jordanian commentators are singling out Britain for their most biting sarcasm, which one writer described as America's "head cheerleader" in the "phantasmagoric cash register coalition".



Summit partners: Tien Suharto, right, the wife of President Suharto of Indonesia, embracing Fatima Velayati, the daughter of the Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, as she stands beside Elizabeth Diouf, the wife of President Diouf of Senegal, and, left, Effat Hashemi Rafsanjani,

wife of the Iranian president, at a function for the wives of Non-Aligned Movement heads of state in Jakarta. At the movement's tenth summit, President Rafsanjani joined Syria, Indonesia, Zimbabwe and Malaysia in calling for the abolition of the veto powers at the United Nations Security

Council, although Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, pointed out that for this to be achieved the five permanent members of the council who hold the power, the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China, would have to approve. Abdel-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian

vice-president, suggesting that the UN had changed from the post-second world war era, wanted a new representation "more just and realistic to security council membership" and proposed that geographic groups should have the same veto powers on a rotating basis. (Reuters)

Electoral reward expected as Bush doles out the dollars

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

GOVERNOR Bill Clinton learnt a sharp lesson this week — never underestimate an incumbent president when his back is to the wall.

For the past 12 months, "incumbency" has been viewed by Americans as if it were a dirty word meaning graft, laziness and incompetence. Yesterday in Texas and on Tuesday in the hurricane-wrecked towns of Florida and Louisiana, Mr Bush showed it can mean action and he used the power of the presidency to help others — and boost his flagging electoral prospects.

Occupants of the White House in the past have exploited their office at key moments in an election campaign to dig themselves out of trouble.

Seeking to recover from the White House's inept early response to the damage wrought by Hurricane Andrew, Mr Bush has copied his predecessors and gone on a blitz of spending, opening the federal coffers to the homeless in Florida and committing his government to rebuilding an air force base in south Florida that was destroyed by the storm and which the country probably does not need any more. Late on Tuesday, he highlighted his action by taking to the airwaves and explaining to the nation on television what he had done and what he expected Americans to do voluntarily to help the Sunshine State.

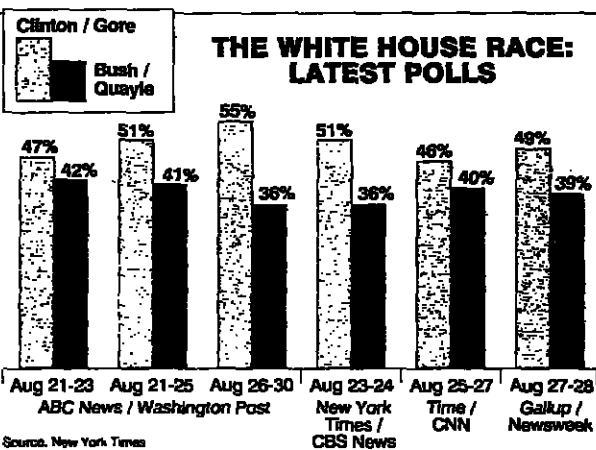
Yesterday, on a campaign

visit to Texas, a state he must hold if he wants to win reelection, Mr Bush helped prospects in Fort Worth by lifting a decade-old ban on the sale of F16 fighter jets to Taiwan. His decision clears the way for General Dynamics to secure a \$4 billion (£2 billion) contract with Taiwan to build 150 of the planes at its Fort Worth plant. With hardly a pause for breath, Mr Bush extended the hand of human kindness to the cotton farmers of south Texas, who got an increase in federal relief.

Pennies from heaven, or rather from Washington, also tumbled down on the hard-pressed farmers of South Dakota, another campaign stop for the president yesterday. They learnt that Mr Bush was increasing subsidies for American wheat exports.

Total estimates for the two-day bill have not come in yet. In Florida alone, the promise to pay all public recovery costs from the hurricane will top \$1.5 billion. The rebuilding of Homestead air force base will probably add another \$500 million. The new wheat export subsidies will cost the taxpayers about \$3 billion.

The White House insists, of course, that none of this largesse has anything to do with the election. It is all a case of the president just going about the normal business of governing.



Dagwood spurns 'family values'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

No sooner has the dust settled over Popeye's involvement in the abortion issue than Dagwood Bumstead, another of America's well-loved cartoon characters, has also decided to reveal himself as a thoroughly modern man by resigning from his tedious office job and going to work for his wife.

Blondie's life became too much for Dagwood after more than half a century of badgering by his irascible boss, J.C. Dithers. In one strip this week, Dithers threatens to replace his useless employee with a computer "if I could find a lazy, no-good, worthless computer".

The Blondie cartoon started in 1930, and the bumbling Dagwood joined the strip in 1933 when he fell in love with the eponymous heroine, Blondie. Bloop-a-Doop. The strip appears in 2,000 newspapers, in 54 countries and in 35 languages.

Its more conservative readers were shocked last year when long-serving housewife Blondie, in an act of emancipation, started her own catering business, but the news that Dagwood is throwing in the towel after working for nearly 60 years without ever actually doing anything, to go to work for his spouse, has left them reeling.

Bob Hope once said that "America knows the Bumsteads better than any neighbours and probably likes them better than any relatives".

Whether Dagwood will be any better at catering than he was at office work remains unclear, but the reversal of traditional roles is certain to earn the displeasure of the Republican party: the Bumsteads have now joined the long list of fictional characters, ranging from unmarried mother Murphy Brown to Bart Simpson, who have failed the traditional family-values test.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nicaragua quake toll mounting

Managua: A powerful earthquake which unleashed a series of tidal waves on Nicaragua's Pacific coast killed at least 56 people and left more than 100 missing and thousands homeless, a local Red Cross spokesman said yesterday. The number of dead is expected to rise.

More than 500 were injured in the disaster, which struck late on Tuesday. Most of the dead were children who drowned when they were swept into the sea, according to the health ministry.

President Chamorro, who visited the devastated area, appealed for international aid for her country, one of the poorest in Latin America. The earthquake registered 7.0 on the Richter Scale. The Red Cross spokesman said: "We have reports of 122 missing but the number could increase as rescue operations go on."

Nato goal set

Tirana: Albania's defence minister, Safet Zhulali, told a visiting American military delegation that Albania wants to join Nato soon. The country, closed to the outside world in the Cold War, has never belonged to a military alliance. (AFP)

Troops move

Seoul: South Korea has decided to send combat troops for United Nations peacekeeping operations in what will be the country's first overseas dispatch of infantry since the Vietnam war. The decision is subject to parliamentary approval. (AP)

Colonel killed

Salamanca: A Spanish army colonel died when a bomb exploded in the car he was driving. Police said the murder in the town in western Spain bore the hallmarks of the Basque separatist group, Eta, blamed for 800 killings in 24 years. (Reuters)

Relief offered

Islamabad: The Pakistan government ruled out any reversal of its decision to bar the entry of Afghan refugees, but vowed to send relief supplies to them inside Afghanistan. The ban on refugees was imposed last week. (AFP)

Aroma therapy

Houston: Eucarec US, which recycles catalysts for oil refineries, has been ordered to pay \$100,000 (£50,000) because of complaints that its plant here generated a smell that was compared to the stench from 1,000 dirty socks in a gymnasium. (AP)

Stormy waters

Peking: Hundreds were made homeless when farmers disputing water rights in the Hebei and Henan provinces blew up the Red Flag canal, famous in the Cultural Revolution as an example of Mao's power of thought. (Reuters)

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Frontline peacekeepers stumble into Bosnian showdown



Mazowiecki: Officers' power needs boosting

THE United Nations has suddenly found itself transformed into a frontline force in the Bosnian war. This was a direct result of the London conference, but the blue-helmeted soldiers and the UN relief workers are ill-prepared for their new status and seem to be stumbling into a bloody showdown on various fronts.

The change became clear yesterday when the UN headquarters in Sarajevo was subjected to its heaviest bombardment so far. Five UN soldiers were wounded bringing the total number of UN casualties this summer to over a dozen. A UN relief convoy to Gorazde has had to be postponed again. The Serbian siege of the Muslim city has been lifted as the result of a promise made by Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, in London.

The Bosnian Muslims are celebrating a somewhat ambiguous victory. Hundreds of

With their status changed by the London conference, UN soldiers and relief workers are ill-prepared to leap into the crossfire. Roger Boyes writes

Serb villagers are leaving the region fearing that the Muslims will launch a revenge attack. The local Serb commanders are furious, above all with the UN. They believe that the only UN relief convoy to have successfully entered Gorazde brought guns for the Bosnian forces and thus helped to turn the tide of battle. The UN denies the allegations. But the Serbian warlords clearly now regard the UN as being in league with the enemy.

The London conference subtly shifted the status of the UN in Bosnia, prodding it from peacekeeping to peace enforcement. Empowered by

the United Nations resolutions calling for "all necessary measures" to protect humanitarian aid, Britain, France and other states have allocated troops to the region. So far the future deployment of these troops has been kept deliberately vague but the ideas that have leaked out — a land corridor from Split to Sarajevo — have convinced many Serbs that there is a "creeping" military intervention underway.

Moreover, this intervention is coming under the cover of the UN. Much of this is the product of the overheated imaginations of battlefield commanders. But their con-

clusion — that the UN troops and even aid workers are somehow the offensive arm of the West — is a dangerous one. It is UN monitors who will oversee the silencing and, eventually, the dismantling of the Serbian guns in the hills around Sarajevo, Bihac, Jajce and Gorazde. It is thus the UN that will be held responsible for what happens when the Serbs withdraw — like a Bosnian Muslim counter-offensive and probably a gory settling of scores with the local Serbs.

The UN aid workers, concentrated mainly in the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, have also become vulnerable. Since many UN convoys set out from Croatia, the Serbs have already become suspicious. The destination of the aid is naturally the chief victims of the war who are overwhelmingly the Bosnian Muslims. This reinforces the Serb impression

that the UN aid is one-sided. Islamic relief shipments are already being made directly to Bosnian frontline troops — a blurring of military and humanitarian help — and the Serb warlords are lumping all the aid agencies together.

The criticism of Serbia at the London conference could not be entirely concealed even by the state-controlled media of Belgrade. It has had a shocking effect on Serb morale. There is the fear that the Serbs will not only have to surrender captured territory but that some broader clandestine deal has been struck at Serbia's expense between the West, Croatia and Bosnia. Again, it is the UN that bears the brunt of this suspicion. Sooner or later the UN will have to face a direct clash with Serb military units. The London conference has authorised UN observers to monitor military movements between Serbia and Bosnia.

The Chetnik irregulars, convinced that they are saving their Serb fellow countrymen in Bosnia, are unlikely to welcome this intrusion.

The UN troops however still have their hands tied much as they do in any strictly peacekeeping situation. They cannot intervene on their own initiative, can only shoot if directly threatened rather than, say, on behalf of threatened civilians. They are easy and high-profile targets who are beginning to feel deeply demoralised about their lack of influence on the daily street battles. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the special UN rapporteur, was confronted with these complaints during his recent trip to the republics of former Yugoslavia and recommended that the personal powers of UN officers be boosted. If the UN hears of an "ethnic cleansing" operation in progress it should have the ability to drive rapidly to the

area and stop it. Mr Mazowiecki said.

The fact is that the UN has been handed too many burdens too quickly. The 14,000 UN protection force in Croatia which began to move into place in January, has been hopelessly stretched to include Sarajevo. Now, as a result of the London plan, there will be more UN battalions. This will not immediately threaten the UN budget in Yugoslavia — some \$600 million — since Britain and other states have agreed to pay and equip directly the troops they supply as UN escorts. But, administratively, it is a big leap for the UN. Only Cambodia has a comparably sized UN contingent, but the supply and protection of these troops is much more straightforward. Since 1948 more than 800 soldiers have been killed in UN service, but rarely have they been drawn so swiftly into the crossfire.

Owen warns sanctions toll could last years

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LORD Owen, the European Community negotiator on Yugoslavia, warned the warring republics yesterday that they could face years of sanctions if they continued their ethnic cleansing.

Speaking after a meeting in Paris with President Mitterrand, he said the Community would not accept the practice, nor would it accept the acquisition of territory by force. "These are principles that we will stick to, not just for weeks or months but for years," he said. He did not single out Serbia by name.

Lord Owen's talks in France and Italy ended three days of consultation among EC leaders before the opening today of the follow-up conference in Geneva, where leaders from the Yugoslav republics will negotiate issues defined during their meeting in London last week.

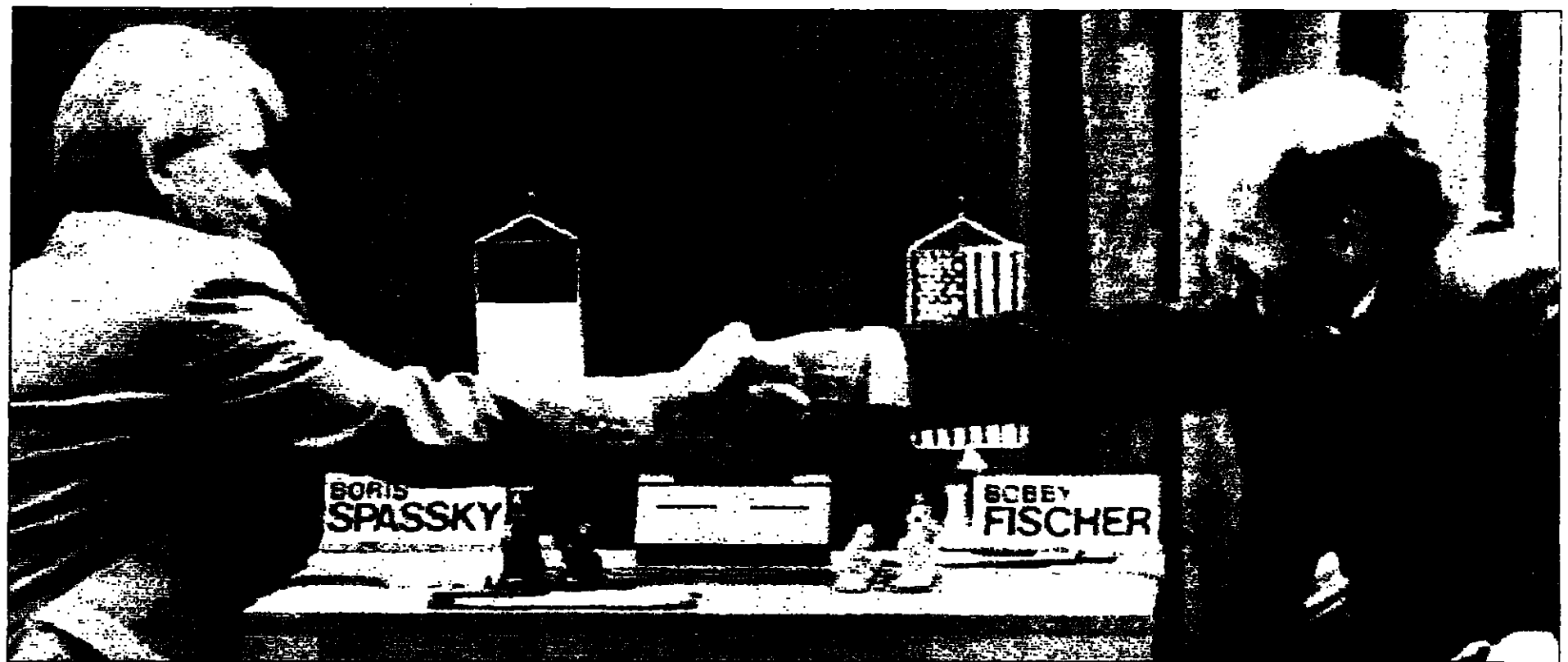
Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, the United Nations co-chairman, will today draw up the agenda and brief the steering committee before the arrival of the representatives from former Yugoslavia, Britain, as EC president, will be represented on the steering committee, together with the

other two members of the EC trioka, a similar trioka representing the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, a representative of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, the five permanent members of the Security Council, the six presidents of the Yugoslav republics, two neighbouring countries and one Muslim country.

The committee will supervise the six task groups negotiating the issues identified in London: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, legal implications of the successor states of Yugoslavia, economic questions, humanitarian relief and confidence-building measures.

Negotiating a lasting ceasefire and a new constitution for Bosnia is the most urgent. The leaders of the three ethnic groups are being pressed to begin talks soon while their agreement in London on the principles of any settlement remains fresh. The intensification of fighting has threatened to scuttle any negotiations, especially as the Muslim side has already said it would boycott the talks.

Lord Owen was urged in Germany on Tuesday to propose a toughening of sanc-



Board meeting: Boris Spassky, left, shakes hands with Bobby Fischer before their chess match in Sveti Stefan.

Genius returns, page 1. Politics of chess, page 10

tions against Serbia. Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, also called for stricter enforcement of the existing embargo.

Teams of customs officials and inspectors have already been sent to Bulgaria and Hungary to help implement the sanctions imposed on shipping the Danube heading for Serbia, especially those delivering oil. Lord Owen and Mr Vance will tomorrow hold talks with Sadozo Ogata, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, on stepping up international relief for the refugees from the fighting. An urgent task is to find shelter before the onset of winter.

The Geneva conference will also hear a report by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish hu-

man rights rapporteur who has called the situation in Bosnia appalling, principally blaming the Serbs. He is expected to repeat his accusations of widespread and brutal abuses of human rights on all sides, and urge the conference to insist on the rapid closure of all camps and detention centres.

As the refugee flow continued, groups of bewildered mothers and children were left weeping on a station platform in Zagreb last night when a train carrying 500 injured soldiers and Bosnian refugees pulled out bound for the Netherlands.

Young Bosnian women weighed down by bags and clutching babies and children

tried desperately to board the train sent to the Croatian capital by the Dutch Red Cross, but had to be left behind because their names did not figure on the official list. "Look at the young men there. They are not injured, they are healthy," Jasminka

Jujic, chokinging back the tears in front of her two children, said. "Where do we go? We have nowhere to go." Serbian refugees from the Gorazde area of Bosnia told harrowing tales of being ambushed by Muslim forces as they fled after Serb fighters

withdrew their protection. The refugees, exhausted after their trek to Belgrade, said the Muslims opened fire on two separate convoys of women, children and old people, killing 50 people. In Mostar, a Bosnian Muslim, 21, said he survived a reported Serb mas-

sacre of 30 compatriots in Herzegovina province by throwing himself on to corpses piled in a mass grave and playing dead.

UN hope, page 1
Leading article
and letters, page 11

Yeltsin signals firm line to Tokyo on keeping Kuriles

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

LESS than two weeks before President Yeltsin travels to his first Tokyo summit, Russian officials seem to be preparing for failure. Yesterday the foreign ministry in Moscow announced that Mr Yeltsin would be visiting two other Asian powers — China and India — in December and January respectively — an announcement that coincided with the visit to Moscow of Michio Watanabe, Japan's foreign minister.

The indirect message to Mr Watanabe appeared to be that, if Japan would not play ball with Russia on economic co-operation, then Russia would look for friends elsewhere. Shortly before the announce-



ment was made officially in Moscow, Mr Yeltsin was reported to have given Mr Watanabe a direct message as well at the beginning of a two-hour meeting in the Kremlin. According to photographers

present at the opening of the talks, Mr Yeltsin told Mr Watanabe that the time was "politically unsuitable" for Russia to hand the disputed southern Kuril islands back to Japan. The return of the islands is Japan's chief condition for enhancing economic co-operation with Russia.

Mr Yeltsin was said to have canvassed the photographers as to whether the four islands, claimed by Japan since they were seized by Russia at the end of the second world war, should be "given away". Some said they should. Others disagreed. "You see," Mr Yeltsin was quoted as telling his Japanese guest, "opinions differ. Politically it is not the time for Russia to do this now."

Afterwards, Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's spokesman, mounted a brave effort to reinterpret Mr Yeltsin's remarks. "The president," he told reporters, "intended to say that heated public emotions in both countries made any negotiations on the issue complicated."

He added that Mr Yeltsin had declined to discuss the matter yesterday and would reopen the subject only in Tokyo.

Further evidence that Russia was unhappy about the lack of change in the Japanese stance was provided by reports that Mr Watanabe had asked for a second round of talks with Andrei Kozirev, his Russian counterpart, yesterday afternoon, but that Russia had stalled. The Russian foreign ministry confirmed that Japan wanted a second round, but said that Mr Kozirev's diary was packed. Mr Kozirev was meeting his Georgian counterpart before today's talks between Eduard Shevardnadze and Mr Yeltsin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Internal passports scrapped

Moscow: Russians are to have their hated internal passports replaced by plastic-covered identity cards at the beginning of 1994. The new cards will omit many of the details — minority nationality, criminal record and marital status — which made the internal passports so useful to the Soviet system and so unpopular with ordinary people (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Although the identity cards are to contain details of the bearer's main address, they will not, unlike the internal passports, imply an obligation to live there.

Anarchy feared

Moscow: Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, President Yeltsin of Russia and Vladislav Ardzinba, head of the Abkhazian community at war with the Georgian army, meet here for talks which could offer a chance to prevent anarchy.

Prices reviewed

The Russian government will announce soon a "decisive liberalisation" in the pricing of fuel and energy, Andrei Nekhaev, the economics minister, said. He added that the changes would allow regional variations and reduce subsidies.

Gold returned

Warsaw: Germany has returned to Poland priceless pre-medieval art treasures, including gold jewellery from the Bronze Age and Roman silver coins, almost 50 years after the Nazis stole them in the second world war. (Reuter)

Afghans earn praise for aiding Russian escape

By MARY DEJEVSKY

When the last Russian diplomats left Afghanistan last week they did not, as was believed, travel by Russian plane direct to Moscow, but followed a complex and dangerous route, under the personal guarantee of one of the Mujahidin leaders. Russia's ambassador in Kabul, Yevgeni Ostrovchenko, clearly relieved that all his staff were safely back in Moscow, gave details of their journey yesterday, praising not only the courage of Russian pilots but the loyalty of individual Afghans who had helped their escape.

Most Russian diplomatic and support staff were evacuated from Kabul, as planned, in a risky but carefully planned operation after their embassy compound became a

target of heavy gunfire from the factions competing to control Kabul. The operation to evacuate remaining Russians threatened to go badly wrong, however, when the main Afghan rebel group, Hezb-islami, destroyed one of four Russian military planes sent to take part in the evacuation.

Next morning, Saturday, the remaining Russian left in an Afghan military plane whose safety was personally guaranteed by General Dostum of the National Islamic Movement. The plane took them to the north Afghan town of Mazar-i-Sharif, and then they took buses to the town of Termez on the border of the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. From here they left by Russian military plane for Moscow.

* Calculation based on the net rate payable on a current account balance of £1,000 between 1 May 1991 and 30 April 1992. Net is the rate after the deduction of basic rate income tax. "Close to the rate before the deduction of basic rate income tax. Interest is payable monthly. We are open to customers who require us to open a new account or to close an existing one. All interest rates quoted were correct as at 19 June 1992, and are subject to variation. (Interest rates shown by NBP Market Research among 250 randomly selected Firstdirect customers. Interviews were conducted by telephone between 22 November 1991 and 5 December 1991. Firstdirect credit facilities are subject to status. Enquiries must be aged 18 or over. For further details of our services write to Firstdirect, Firstdirect PVT, Leeds LS11 0PP. Firstdirect is a division of Midland Bank plc.)

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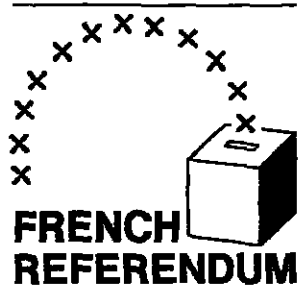
Right-wing rebel duels with Mitterrand over Maastricht

THE fate of Europe may hang on President Mitterrand's television appearance tonight, but beyond the merits of Maastricht, much of France will be watching to relish the combat between the president and the formidable, yet unlikely, Gaullist he picked as his adversary.

Pitting his wits against Mitterrand's still rapier-like intellect is Philippe Séguin, the dissident baron from Jacques Chirac's RPR party who has emerged in months of dogged, low-key campaigning as the champion of the reasoned opposition to the treaty on European union.

Aged 49, but with a hulk-like, crumpled appearance that makes him look older, M Séguin cuts both an intellectual and physical figure far out of the ordinary for a politician of the modern age. His lugubrious demeanour, bouts of Homeric laughter, his dishevelled form, gravelly voice, and above all his eloquent scepticism would all suit him better for a Victorian debating chamber than the grand-bite world of video politics. Not by chance does he consider that Napoleon III, a man born on the same day at the same hour, as a hero only a little less influential than Charles de Gaulle himself. Eighteen months ago he tried to redeem the reputation of the much maligned, 19th century emperor with a best-selling biography. The emperor had many failings, M Séguin says, but he was "a too courageous type, generous

Charles Bremner sets the scene in Paris for the battle on television tonight between a Gaullist who is respected by the left and the rapier intellect of the French president



and naive. The machiavellianism of politics makes it impossible to govern with feelings. He showed the contrary."

This penchant for sincerity, which would have had him relegated to a British back bench, has proved M Séguin's strongest weapon in his climb from childhood as a fatherless *plébéien* in Tunisia to office as employment minister in the mid-1980s and, since the Maastricht campaign, as a force that could eclipse M Chirac as conservative contender for the presidency. He has held the parliamentary seat for Epinal, the Vosges city, since 1978 and has also served as its mayor since 1983.

A Mediterranean Gaullist whose tastes include football and a love of Britain and

America, M Séguin tells the French what they want to hear — that the political and technocratic classes have lost touch with the people, creating, as he puts it, "divorce between the French and *la chose publique*." An "eternal maverick" as *Le Figaro* called him recently, M Séguin faults his party for failing to recognise the demise of the old right-left cleavage in French politics and replace it with a consensus closer to the centre.

While other politicians, on both sides, have been hurling anathemas at each other over Maastricht, converting the campaign into a squabble over Mitterrand and foreign bogymen, M Séguin has toured the country laconically, the text of the treaty with a non-partisan critique which has rallied sceptics on both right and left. In terms almost identical to those of British Euro-sceptics, M Séguin denounces Maastricht as a plot to impose "creeping dictatorship by technocrats."

In the Europe of Maastricht, "there is only room for a single political direction, a single economic, social and cultural model," he said in the left-wing *Liberation* on Monday. "This model is neither socialist nor really liberal. It is

conservative and technocratic. No national government will be able to escape from the pitiless mechanism of economic and monetary union, nor from the legal machinery of harmonisation, nor from the logic of the Social Charter." In short, France would lose its national identity.

His approach has proved effective because he favours deeper union and rejects the government's predictions of calamity in the event of rejection. Occasionally, however, the hot temper to which he admits has flashed through his placid demeanour. Last Sunday, for example, he called Jacques Delors incompetent after the Commission president attacked the Maastricht opponents as sorcerer's apprentices. M Séguin has rallied two-thirds of the RPR party on his desertion to the Maastricht treaty, according to polls.

Normally, M Séguin says, he soothes his temper through his hobbies of crossword, writing and an addiction to filterless *Gitanes* cigarettes.

M Séguin's reasonable style has won grudging admiration from the Socialists themselves and, in private, from Mitterrand. When he served in the "cohabitation" government of M Chirac, the president called him "the most interesting one of the whole bunch". As minister with the politically charged portfolio of social affairs and employment, M Séguin took a conciliatory approach that won him more favour with the unions



Séguin and his hero, Napoleon III, whose reputation he tries to save in a new biography. Both were born on the same day of the month and at the same hour



government side. Elizabeth Gigue, the European Affairs minister, is also a *plébéien* of the same generation. Apart from a similar technocrat's training, the pair have little else in common. The strident style of Mme Gigue, a chic, brittle Parisienne, is miles away from that of the avuncular, chain-smoking M Séguin.

He distinguished himself at school in Nîmes, where he developed a love of bullfighting as well as sports. Studying political science at university in Provence, he earned his keep as a journalist, a trade which he says taught him more than his later stint at the Ecole Nationale de l'Administration, the nursery of the civil service elite from which he followed the traditional high-flyer's path. When the student revolution of 1968 erupted, he was serving as a trainee administrator in the South Pacific. After a flirtation with left-wing movements, his political career took off when he was recruited as an adviser to President Pompidou in 1973.

Discussing his anglophile streak recently, M Séguin said he would define himself as a "wer" in British Conservative terms, though he greatly admired the leadership of Margaret Thatcher. One of his two daughters attended Loughborough University.

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Prague fears revive after Dubcek crash

By ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

THE car crash involving Alexander Dubcek, architect of the 1968 Prague Spring, has removed a key player from the political game only months before Czechs and Slovaks complete their divorce.

Mr Dubcek, who became speaker of the federal Czechoslovak parliament after the 1989 "Velvet Revolution", was expected to become the first president of Slovakia when the federation ends on January 1. He had returned to Slovak politics earlier this year as leader of the small Social Democratic Party and was the most popular of Slovak politicians as well as being trusted by the Czechs.

He was thus expected to play an important part in the transitional period, restraining the nationalism of Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak prime minister, and the chauvinist right while keeping open the bridges to the Czech republic. Since Václav Havel is tipped to become Czech president, and since he has a good working relationship with Mr Dubcek, a degree of continuity would have been guaranteed, even after the divorce became absolute. Now new calculations have to be made.

Already it is plain that Mr Dubcek, 70, will not be able to continue his political career. He was described yesterday as being in a serious condition after a difficult three-hour operation. He has broken his spine, hips and several ribs and has serious internal injuries in the area of

his chest and stomach. The operation was on an "open fracture of the lumbar vertebrae". When he regained consciousness yesterday he was visited by Mr Havel, and the two men talked about "the next session of the federal parliament", according to the CSTK news agency.

The accident took place at 9.30am on Tuesday on the Prague-Bрно road in Moravia. The BMW carrying Mr Dubcek crashed into a road-side ditch, broke through a metal barrier and rolled down a slope for at least 100 yards. The driver, who was bruised, and Mr Dubcek were thrown from the car.

The Slovak parliament approved on Tuesday a Slovak constitution that will override the federal constitution. This is an important part of the whole divorce package. Czechs and Slovaks have agreed, meanwhile, to keep some common institutions beyond January. They will include a common currency, a common army and shared foreign embassies.

The next deadline is September 30 when federal laws are to be passed dissolving the federation and dividing national assets. There will be two separate budgets, but economic, foreign and defence policies will be co-ordinated. But there are many questions about how the two republics will survive. The EC has not promised to renew Czechoslovakia's association agreement in December.

Former Polish prime minister murdered

By ROGER BOYES

PIOTR Jaroszewicz, a former prime minister of Poland, and his wife were found dead yesterday at their home in Warsaw, apparently murdered. Political or personal motives were not being excluded.

The most likely explanation was that intruders tried to force the former communist politician to hand over savings and valuables. Mr Jaroszewicz, 82, was an unpopular figure during the last years of his premiership, which lasted from 1970 to 1980. He was blamed for crippling the economy, imposing huge price rises indiscriminately and making long queues a permanent feature of Polish life. His image was not helped by the exploits of his son, Andrzej, a high-living rally driver and playboy who was dubbed the Red Prince.

Even so, political revenge — more than 11 years after he was expelled by the communist party — seems improbable. The bodies apparently were found by Andrzej Jaroszewicz, who said that he had found "macabre scenes". Mr Jaroszewicz was hanging from the ceiling and bore traces of multiple injuries, including, perhaps, torture. His wife Alicja, who used to be



Jaroszewicz: political revenge improbable

a journalist for the communist newspaper *Trybuna Ludu*, had been shot dead, probably with a hunting rifle.

Mr Jaroszewicz was a political officer during the war and by 1944 was deputy commander of political affairs in the First Polish Army. After the war, he was appointed deputy defence minister, showing that he enjoyed the trust of the Kremlin, and by 1952 had become deputy prime minister. He served in that post until 1970, when he became prime minister.

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European team will partner UN peace monitors in Pretoria

By MICHAEL HAMLYN IN PRETORIA AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE dispatch of European peace monitors, including senior police officers and lawyers or both, agreed yesterday between the South African government and the United Nations, is a landmark in the process of ending the violence in the country. It is the first time that the number of officials is likely to be fewer than 20.

What was described on the African radio yesterday as a "peace mission" from Europe arrived on a balmy day in the capital and started talks about what might be done by the EC to help stem the country's violence. It began with a visit to Judge Richard Goldstone, whose mission of enquiry into the violence is taking a larger share of the responsibility for investigating who has been to blame for the township killings. Lunch of cold lobster and strawberries with President de Klerk and his ministers was followed by a visit to Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, at the ANC headquarters.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary who is leading the mission, arrived in an RAF VC10 flying the European Community's blue star-circled flag. He said that it was up to the South Africans to solve their problems, but that Europe had a strong interest in their doing so. "The answers are being sought here very strenuously," he said at an airport press conference, "and the answers will be found here. Europe is involved, has always been involved, is involved now as South Africa's biggest trading partner, and is active already on the ground."

Mr Hurd denied that he was here to bang South African heads together. "We are here as friends," he said. "As friends first of all to listen, and when they have listened and brought themselves up to date, if they have any suggestions then they make them — to friends."

R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, greeted Mr Hurd and his colleagues — J.M. Durrão, the Portuguese deputy foreign minister, and Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Denmark's foreign minister — and Frans Andriessen, the Dutch EC vice-president and commissioner for external relations.

Mr Botha said that all main South African parties welcomed the visit. "I think we will all listen to constructive advice," he insisted. "There is not the slightest intention on the part of any of the parties to try to involve this important delegation in our internal squabbles or differences."

After lunch at the state guest house in a hilltop suburb of Pretoria, Mr Hurd and Mr Botha signed a bilateral agreement on co-operation in the fight against drug trafficking and money laundering.

In Brussels last night it was announced that Mr Hurd and his two fellow ministers in the troika will visit Somalia on their way home from South Africa. During a one-day stopover, probably tomorrow, Mr Hurd, accompanied by his Danish and Portuguese colleagues, will look at the relief efforts under way by the UN and voluntary agencies.

The announcement came after members of the European Parliament heard Britain criticised for failing to use its presidency of the EC to mobilise a European initiative to improve co-ordination of emergency UN aid.



Brides parade Filipino women intending to marry American servicemen displaying their diplomas after completing their training at the Bride School at the Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines. But the school is ending because the base will be closed in December after Manila's refusal to renew a bases treaty. The last dependants left yesterday. (Reuters)

American academic expelled by China

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

AN AMERICAN academic, Ross Terrill, was expelled from China yesterday after helping a dissident try to set up a pro-democracy organisation in China.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman said that Mr Terrill had been asked to leave China "because he conducted actions incompatible with his status as a tourist". The day before, a student leader, Shen Tong, who fled to America after the army repression of 1989 and who returned to China last month to recruit pro-democracy activists for his organisation, was arrested in Peking.

Mr Terrill was an adviser to the American-based Democracy for China Fund, which was founded by Mr Shen. He has taught at Harvard and is well known as a journalist and author of several books on China.

After Mr Shen's arrest early on Tuesday, Mr Terrill was detained in his hotel room for several hours by security personnel. After the intervention of the American Embassy, Mr Terrill was released. But that night, after giving a press conference, Mr Terrill was seized by police once more. They interrogated him about Mr Shen, forced him to sign a confession saying he had handed out a press statement written by Mr Shen before his arrest, and put him on the first plane to Hong Kong on Wednesday morning.

Even before his expulsion, the American Embassy in Peking had protested against Mr Terrill's confinement in his hotel room and had expressed "deep concern" about Mr Shen's arrest. By late last night, Mr Shen's distraught mother had been told nothing more about her son's whereabouts. Speaking to journalists, she accused the police of illegally arresting her son and demanded to see him.

Mr Shen, 24, is the first student leader to return to China since 1989. Two dissidents working for him, as well as two French journalists who had been travelling with him, were at his mother's house when the police arrived. The two dissidents were arrested, and the two French journalists were expelled on Tuesday.

Mr Shen acted as a spokesman for students in Tiananmen Square in 1989. On his arrival in the United States he wrote *Almost a Revolution*, a book about his experiences, and became well connected with Democratic congressmen who were willing to speak out on human rights issues in China.

Peking has recently issued a circular welcoming exiled students back to China. However, the first condition for the students' return is that they break all links with pro-democracy organisations. Mr Shen's attempt to set up a pro-democracy grouping within China clearly contravened the communist authorities' condition.

High court dismisses Bofors case

DELHI: An Indian court yesterday dismissed corruption allegations, involving a \$550 million Swedish arms deal, which helped to topple the government of the former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in 1989.

The Delhi high court also ordered India's Central Bureau of Investigation to withdraw letters to Swedish and Swiss authorities asking for co-operation in the investigation into the so-called Bofors scandal. The court said the CBI had failed to name any suspects in the case since registering it 31 months ago and therefore the request should be withdrawn. Investigations found that Bofors paid up to \$26 million into secret Swiss bank accounts. Owners of the accounts have not been identified. (Reuters)

Captain held

TAIPEI: Taiwanese police have detained the captain and two crew members of the *Terfu 51*, a trawler that collided with the *Royal Pacific*, a cruise liner, off Malaysia last month. Three people died and six have been missing since the collision. (Reuters)

Timor talks set

JAKARTA: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, and President Suharto agreed to reopen talks between Indonesia and Portugal on East Timor later this month. The former Portuguese colony was annexed by Indonesia in 1976. (AP)

Muslims strike

COLOMBO: Shops and offices in mainly Muslim towns in eastern Sri Lanka closed and transport was halted as residents protested against a market bomb blast that killed 22 Muslim civilians, police said. The attack was blamed on Tamil rebels. (Reuters)

Chief convicted

HARARE: Zimbabwe police's chief, Augustine Chihuri, and a former assistant were convicted of corruption. The court here found that the two officials ordered the release of cars known to be stolen to two local doctors, instead of to the legitimate owners. (AP)

Rebels killed

DAKAR: Senegalese security forces killed 50 supporters of independence for the southern province of Casamance in a battle near Ziguinchor. Senegal radio said two soldiers were killed in the fighting. Sixty rebels and nine soldiers were wounded. (AP)

City uncovered

TOYO: A Japanese archaeological team digging in northern Israel said that it may have found an En Gedi on the eastern bank of the Sea of Galilee part of the ruins of the ancient biblical city of Apeh built in the reign of King Solomon. (Reuters)

PEOPLE

Mengistu's officials will be put on trial

Ethiopia plans to name a prosecutor this week for war crime trials of officials in the ousted government, former President Jimmy Carter said in Addis Ababa. He said that he had been told the trials would start soon.

The transitional government has been criticised for its tardiness in bringing the prisoners to trial. About 1,270 officials in former President Mengistu's government and the Marxist-Leninist Workers Party of Ethiopia are detained in two camps near Addis Ababa. Most of them surrendered or were arrested shortly after the president fled to Zimbabwe as a coalition of rebels advanced to Addis Ababa in May 1991.

Mr Carter also offered to mediate between President Meles's Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front, which dominates the government, and its rival, the Oromo Liberation Front.

Elyas Omar, the mayor of Kuala Lumpur, has resigned, saying he was taking responsibility for city hall's purchase of 23 cars, alleged in a local press report to have been used by some city officials and their families for personal purposes.

The singer Gloria Estefan and a group of volunteers have started a private relief effort for victims of Hurricane Andrew by turning her south Miami offices into a distribution center for nappies, food and water.

Cuban foreign ministry officials walked out of a Swedish diplomatic cocktail party in Havana to protest against the presence of Cuban dissidents and human rights activists, including Gustavo Arocas, head of the Cuban Committee for Human Rights, and Elizardo Sanchez, leader of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation.

Elizabeth Taylor broke down in tears in California and walked out of a news confer-

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A duty for the state

Claire Palley on why we must not privatise prisons

Honourable motives doubtless underlie government attempts to privatise prisons, starting next year with Blakenhurst, Doncaster, and Strangeways. Ministers believe that better accommodation and conditions can be provided, and that the power of the prison staff to obstruct change can be bypassed. But the ends do not justify the means.

Countries, such as ours, which observe basic human rights, are both responsible for protecting individuals' freedom and vested with power to invade their liberties if they break the law. These powers and duties are so far-reaching that only states acting through their officers should be entrusted with such responsibility. Only they can ensure that prisoners are not subjected to degrading treatment or punishment, and be called to account if rules are not observed. Many prisoners have disturbed backgrounds, and a great number have contempt for authority, so disciplinary action is needed to reinforce order and authority. Such a quasi-judicial power should not be delegated to private persons.

Advocates of privatisation argue that Home Office civil servants will scrutinise tenders and contracts for private prisons, and that an inspection service, as well as independent disciplinary machinery, will provide adequate safeguards. But these are no substitute for the continuous direct involvement of public servants. At present, the Home Secretary is answerable to Parliament for any breaches of a prisoner's human rights, but what will be his position when prisons are privatised?

The term "the prison service" is in any case a euphemism. For while holding a prisoner is in one sense a service to the state, it is predominantly a deprivation of liberty and a punishment, permitted only in exceptional cases. If we spoke about privately managed incarceration and punishment rather than services in prisons, we might better understand the gravity of what is involved. A private organisation is to be handed the right to inspect and censor correspondence, to regulate family visits and freedom of association, to punish breaches of rules, and give crucial evidence to the parole board.

There is no guarantee that private prisons will provide the hoped-for better conditions and staff, as the experience of some American states shows. Seeking to maximise their profits, the companies there have often implemented only minimum standards, and there have been cases of assaults on prisoners. After studying this evidence, the French government has decided not to privatise custody, but only ancillary services such as catering and laundry.

Prison privatisation will expose Britain to the possibility of petitions to the European Commission of Human Rights and the UN. International human rights do not, other than in exceptional circumstances such as citizens' arrest, permit private individuals to deprive persons of liberty, and do not contemplate their acting as prison custodians. Delegating the management of prisons to corporations or private persons by passing an act of parliament or amending regulations runs counter to the spirit of international human rights protections and the international law principle of non-delegation of duties.

Persons deprived of their liberty must, under Article 10 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, be treated with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. To be in the custody of public servants is a very different matter from being in the custody of and subject to the authority of the Mickey Mouse Prison Company. To be placed in the hands of private persons could in itself be considered degrading treatment.

The United Nations sub-commission on the prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, of which I am a member, has been examining prison privatisation as a potential breach both of the right to liberty and security of the person and of the freedom from arbitrary arrest. For the Home Office to pursue such a questionable policy and again to risk putting British prisons in the international dock is misguided, however benevolent the motives.

The author is a specialist in constitutional law.

Daniel Johnson salutes the singleminded genius of the great American chess player Bobby Fischer

The champion checks in

We are all speed-freaks. Ours is a culture of momentum, of the shrinking attention-span, the sound-bite, overnight celebrity and built-in obsolescence. So Bobby Fischer's reappearance on the front pages this week is a rare event. When the former world chess champion last pushed a pawn in anger, the year was 1972: Nixon and Brezhnev, Mao and Tito, Franco and Amin were all alive and in power. His symbolic triumph over the Russian world champion, Boris Spassky, foreshadowed the checkmating of Soviet communism in the Cold War.

A generation has grown up since Fischer last held the world spellbound: crushing the best grandmasters by unprecedented margins, culminating in his memorable victory at Reykjavik. His comeback, against the same opponent and under the same auspices, flies in the face of all received wisdom. If he should ever return to America, he will answer in court for his defiance of sanctions. He is accused of anti-Semitism (a prejudice of which his Jewish origins do not necessarily acquit him), of aiding a pariah regime, of eccentricity

bordering on the lunatic. Still, what he does is new.

Fischer obeys only self-imposed rules. He has always chosen to walk out of tournaments, even the world chess championship, until the authorities are prepared to meet his standards. He forfeited the second game of the Reykjavik match. When his conditions for the defence of his title against Anatoly Karpov in 1975 were deemed unacceptable, Fischer preferred to suffer the indignity of being stripped of his laurels, than to concede.

Twenty years in the wilderness, much of it wasted in the claustrophobic world of the Zionist American religious sect, was the price. Such absolute adherence to principle may seem absurdly disproportionate, obsessive, even mad. Perhaps it is. But it is also exceedingly rare. Combining, as he does, this ascetic rigour with a brilliance whose aura has somehow transcended the realm of chess,

Fischer is entitled to his reputation. He is a true genius.

Chess has seen comparable megalomaniacs before. Paul Morphy burst on the world from the deep south of America in the 1850s and beat everybody except the British veteran Howard Staunton. Having arrived from Cuba in 1911, Capablanca became the great Emanuel Lasker's chief rival within three years. From Riga in 1958 there emerged a Jewish youth, the late Mikhail Tal, who defeated the even younger Bobby Fischer and within two years trounced the champion, Mikhail Botvinnik, only to lose the title again forever in 1961 due to chronic ill-health.

Tal's premature death this summer was the catalyst for Fischer's re-emergence. If Fischer, now 49, is ever to confront the present champion, Gary Kasparov — himself a prodigy whose achievements at the board have, some think, eclipsed even Fischer's — there is no time to lose. Fischer would already be

considered the underdog, not only against Kasparov but also against his most dangerous younger rival, Nigel Short. Since the Cold War barriers broke down, former Soviet players have flooded the West. Kasparov now spends as much time in America — where he writes a column for *The Wall Street Journal* — as he does in Russia, which cannot afford to keep him.

Ironically, Fischer may now become an exile from America, which he sees as an ungrateful nation. A lifelong anti-communist, he could yet end up by settling in Serbia, one of the last bastions of the *ancien régime*, or in Hungary, the equally chess-loving former communist homeland of his 19-year-old girlfriend, Zita Rajcsanyi. For many years, Fischer represented the rest of the world against the Soviet communist bloc, which had dominated chess for two generations. Now that the Soviet Union has dissolved, Fischer has decided to defy the rest of the

world, as represented by UN sanctions against Serbia. The creative tension he needs to raise his game seems always to have a political ingredient.

Because Fischer has been out of action for so long, and many have assumed that he was out of his mind, most experts pooh-poohed this match almost until the last minute. But it could be almost as important for chess as the Reykjavik match. Fischer believes that two factors have led to a decline in the quality of chess over the past few decades: overnight adjournments, which allow the use of computers and seconds to analyse positions, and time scrambles, which cause players to blunder when they approach the time limit. The shorter time limits which, rather like one-day cricket matches, have become increasingly popular, are causing blunders at even the highest level.

Fischer's proposal — which Spassky has accepted — is to eliminate adjournments, with all

games to finish in one session. Even more importantly, he proposes to minimise the influence of time pressure on the quality of play by using a special clock which, rather than imposing series of deadlines, instead adds to the time available to each player after each move is made. The effect should be to reduce the proportion of draws while at the same time cutting out the cross errors which inevitably occur when players must make a dozen moves within a couple of minutes.

"Though this be madness, yet there is method in't." The myth that all geniuses must be at least slightly deranged dies hard. An attempt to prove that Ludwig Wittgenstein was really a madman will always make the front pages, as one recently did. Likewise with Bobby Fischer: his total dedication of his life to chess, to logic in one of its purest manifestations, is seen as irrational. For those who love chess, however, what matters is the prospect of Fischer producing masterpieces like those of two or three decades ago. If that happens, he can change his name to Napoleon for all that I care.

Just a throwaway line

Careless words have ruined the lives of men and women since Adam and Eve, says Bernard Levin

Poor Mr Ratner: his jewellery empire is troubled with financial problems: so much so that he is having to sell many of his shops. His advisers insist that his misfortunes did not spring from his unfortunate choice of words when referring to one particular item from his stock, but were coming anyway because of the recession. Perhaps: but he will nevertheless go down to history as the man who failed to bite his tongue hard enough, though even if he had bitten it in half, it would have availed him nothing, for he would have bled a second too late.

That, or something very like it, is what Gerald Ratner is thinking today, as he was thinking yesterday, and will be thinking tomorrow, and every day of his life to come. Let him live for a hundred years. "O call back yesterday, bid time return." But the world revolves in only one direction, and nothing will induce it to reverse its course. I have no wish to deepen Mr Ratner's anguish, but I fear that it will be no comfort for him to know that all of us, too, remember with shame, embarrassment, agony or horror, a word we spoke and a thousandth of a second later wished unsaid.

I do not buy my jewellery at Mr Ratner's stores. When I want to drape a necklace of matched emeralds round the throat of some pretty thing, I go, naturally, to Cartier. But horses for courses: those who lack my millions must accommodate themselves in a different mode, and I certainly do not look down upon them. But then M Cartier has never stigmatised even one of his products as *de l'ordure*.

"Words, words, words": that is all Polonius got for an answer when he asked Hamlet what he was reading. They seem innocent things, do they not? Yet they can ruin men and women, indeed they can bring down governments, spark off hideous wars, estrange friends, break up families, part lovers and lead

criminals — and innocents — to the scaffold.

Or, of course, they can inspire heroism, create beauty, spread happiness, bring learning, comfort the bereaved, provoke true laughter, and — do not despise the lowliest of their functions — keep me and all the other scribblers from the necessity of earning an honest living.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Thus spake St John, and most powerfully did he speak up for the word. There is, assuredly, no human being without words: even the dumb have their words inside them, and although there have been, and are, cultures with no writing (the Incas, for instance, and the American Indians), they still have words with which to express themselves verbally, aided by signs.

You know, I take it, of the *mot de Cambrousse*? But do you know the real *mot de Cambrousse*? At Waterloo, was commanding the Guards, and they were surrounded. His surrender being demanded, he replied: "*La garde meurt, mais ne se rend pas*", and he has passed into history in one of the most splendid retorts in any language. Yet he consistently denied saying it, only to be disbelieved; his denial was attributed to modesty. Only on his deathbed did he tell the full truth: he was indeed told to surrender, but what he said in reply was less tremendous, though more concise: "*Merde!*" The *mot de Ratner* has the concision of the original, and indeed the exact wording: I would not be surprised to see it included in a book of quotations.

We have no knowledge of just what Eve said to Adam as she handed him the fruit, though we know what the serpent said. Whatever the words that carried the fatal message, how bitterly and yearningly did the pair of them wish those words unsaid. And little do proud mothers think when they rejoice at Johnny's first word, what mil-

lions of words he will speak in due course, and what they will be: to bless her or shame her.

The most severe of the Trappist orders requires silence of its monks, though there has been some relaxation of the rule in recent years. Would it be a transgression for a Trappist to talk to himself? I am an inveterate talker-to-myself; people cross the road when they meet this man muttering as though surrounded by a throng of listeners. That may be one of the effects of



living alone, or possibly of the belief that my own words are much more interesting than those of other people.

I love dictionaries. Sometimes I pull out a volume of the OED and sit cross-legged on the floor searching for a word, only to be found a couple of hours later, my original quest long forgotten, having wandered up many a leafy lexicographical lane in the meantime. I usually round off a session with another look at "haberdasher", that amazing

word which is recorded as early as 1419 but has defied etymology ever since: no one has been able to trace its origins. Lady Diana Cooper once tried to convince me that she had unravelled the secret; according to her, the word came to England with an influx of German pedlars, selling ribbons, pins and other such items, who cried their wares at the street corner with the words "*Ich habe das hier!*" A likely story! (Mind you, nobody has ever found an etymology for

"cocktail.") I suppose we have to surrender to that frightful Dr Burchfield and agree that "OK" comes from an illiterate or jocular "orl korrek".

There are more than 1,100 uses of "word" or "words" in Shakespeare, and the heroic Mr Bartlett has listed every one of them in his great concordance; just think of the labour it took without computers or any other modern aid. He was American, the compiler of *Bartlett's Quotations*. Now there's a man who could talk about words, knowing what he was talking about.

Costard, in *Love's Labour's Lost*, says to Moth, ancient the pedant, "O! they have lived long on the alms-basket of words. I marvel thy master hath not eaten thee for a word; for thou art not so long by the head as *honorificabilitudinitatibus*; thou art easier swallowed than a flap-dragon". Well and good; but the depressing thing about the famous "long word" (pure nonsense, of course) is that the madman, Bottom, and other anti-Stratfordians have seized on it as a concealed cipher, and tortured the poor word into shapes as mad as they.

Poor Mr Ratner: I don't know whether he will be cheered or further downcast when I reveal that if he had only had a classical education he would have spared his shame, for if he looks up the *mot de Ratner* in the OED he will find a torrent of Latin words under his own, as "*carpius, captura, res decepta... pars carnis acicula; crustum; offula, offula... pulpa... mentum...*" all of which initially concerned "to pluck off, out of, separate", but of which the OED delicately says that "the word has taken the sense of 'dirt, filth'". Next time Mr Ratner wants to emphasise something, let him follow Gibbon and leave the word "in the decent obscurity of a learned language". But what is the Latin for *oops*?



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

After *TV Hell*, BBC's compilation of the worst moments of television, I am hoping to put together its journalistic equivalent, *Newspaper Hell*, a single newspaper full of all those ghastly items you hoped never to read again.

There will be lengthy profiles of Nigel Havers, Tina Brown and Vivien Westwood, and an article by Richard Burton's second wife on being Richard Burton's second wife. On the literary pages, a journalist will treat Kingsley Amis to a five-course lunch at the Connaught, reporting on his every mouthful, ending by declaring his latest novel to be "his best since *Lucky Jim*". At the bottom of the page, there will be a round-up of literary festivals, each with John Mortimer and Melvyn Bragg chairing discussions with or about one another. Next to it, there will be an article speculating on the shortlist for this year's Booker prize.

The news pages will include stories about a major shake-up at the BBC, with lots of photographs of men in glasses, all looking roughly the same. A question-and-answer piece will seek to explain what is wrong with the economy in layman's terms, but will remain incomprehensible. Towards the bottom of the second page, there will be a major news story about the Bishop of Durham denying something new, plus ensuing outcry, quite possibly with an indignant quote from Mr Nicholas Winterbottom MP. The main news story will involve Norman Lamont, the EC, a distressing

new report from the CBI and an urgent call from Paddy Ashdown. Beneath it will be the headline "Setback to Channel Tunnel", complete with photograph of John Selwyn Gummer presenting someone from the Farmers' Union with a handsome trophy.

For me, the sports pages will be bad enough simply by being sports pages, but they might be made all the more awful by headlines declaring "Botham returns in triumph" and "Gazza good for twenty more years". Carol Thatcher will write a first-person piece in which she attempts to communicate the thrill of the Cresta Run by suspending all punctuation. A column by Roy Hattersley on the joy of cricket ("estimable pastime") will come complete with a picture byline.

The newspaper will carry a colour magazine, with features on Michael Winner and Jenny Seagrove at home, plus exclusive new photographs of Marilyn Monroe alongside an interview with someone who knew her really well. There will be an in-depth panel-testing of supermarket taramasalata.

A travel piece will explore the undiscovered Spain ("country of contrasts"). A country diary written by the divorced wife of a little-known novelist will put readers in the picture about the pros and cons of the proposed by-pass to her local village in the Cotswolds. Full-colour photographs of an actress in her kitchen — Jane Asher? Rula Lenska? — will be accompanied by two pages of recipes, each with an essential

ingredient sadly unobtainable outside Northern Sicily. The food section will be rounded off with an article by a portly journalist called "In Praise of the Great British Banger".

On the Women's Pages, recently renamed "Coping", there will be an article by Teresa Gorman MP about outwitting the menopause, and a regular columnist will meditate on the choices between motherhood and a career. A piece about Queen Charlotte's Ball will conclude that it isn't what it used to be. The fashion section will have a splash headline declaring that something-or-other (long skirts, short skirts, medium-length skirts) ARE BACK!!!

Letters will call for the return of capital punishment, the outlawing of Rotweilers, an end to the misuse of the words "hopefully" and "gay", the reinstatement of the old counties and the news that there is a gardener in East Cheam who rejoices in the slightly appropriate name of Mr Green.

Elsewhere in the paper, Julian Critchley will take a light-hearted look at Westminster, the autobiography of a former cabinet minister will be serialised, and to tie in with the news that the Queen has a slight sniffle, the newspaper's resident doctor will explore cures for the common cold. Meanwhile, an eight-page pull-out supplement will describe in tremendous detail all the fun of the Edinburgh Fringe. Oh, and there'll be six full pages of light-hearted columns, many with my own name on top.

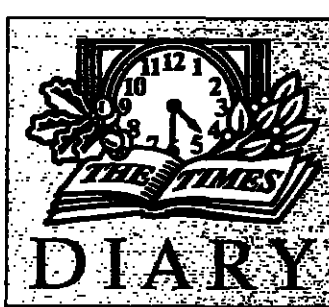
Raised highbrows

THE Emperor Charlemagne, Napoleon Bonaparte and Victor Hugo all say *Oui*. Rousseau, Montesquieu and Jean-Paul Sartre are offering their philosophical support. Even General de Gaulle — the man who famously said *Non* — now says *Yes*.

As President Mitterrand goes on television tonight to persuade a reluctant electorate that closer European union is good for La France, his supporters are claiming some of the nation's most famous *filas* as Maastricht's biggest fans. The European Parliament's socialist group, led by Claude Cheysson, the former foreign minister, yesterday launched a series of postcards of famous French historical figures backing the *Oui* campaign.

Montesquieu must have been thinking of the referendum when he wrote: "If I knew something to be useful to my nation but a prejudice to Europe and mankind, I would consider it a crime."

Rousseau, too, must have had September 20 in mind when he wrote: "Let us now see how the free



and voluntarist society, which united all the European states taking strength and solidity from a real political body, can change into a real confederation."

Meanwhile, advertisements are running in *Le Figaro* and other national newspapers signed by *les célébrités* backing Maastricht. They include such Britons as the singer Peter Gabriel, Lindsay Owen Jones (president of L'Oréal) and the actress Charlotte Rampling. From the world of the arts, Plácido Domingo, Marcel Marceau, Mstislav Rostropovich, Gérard Philipe and Roman Polanski have signed up. Johnny Hallyday and Yves Saint Laurent have also added their names for good measure.

Yet few could have composed a better manifesto than Victor Hugo: "Europe needs a European nationality, and government... in other words, the United States of Europe."

The finest rallying cry of all, however, is surely Napoleon's: "I do not believe that after my fall there will be any great equilibrium possible other than in the agglomeration and confederation of the great peoples." What Jacques Delors thinks of support from such a quarter is not recorded. The European Commission is not like Napoleon's army: the Euro-president once insisted, "It only intervenes when it must."

Mediation, levitation

FORGET shuttle diplomacy. Try yogic flying. As Lord Owen begins the long process of trying to bring peace to the Balkans, members of the Natural Law party have floated in, offering to create love and harmony where previously there was only strife and ethnic cleansing. A group of followers of the Maharshi, who fought almost all the seats at the general election, has written to John Major explaining that the solution is simple.

All it takes is 200 people to sit down in the lotus position close to the war zone and bounce up and down. "Everyone's wavelength is on the same level and everyone is in tune. Studies show that when there is a large enough group in one place practising yogic flying, there is a reduction in disorderliness around them," they have told the prime minister.

"It is a simple and inexpensive solution. It can be implemented immediately." Do not mock. It surely has as much chance of succeeding as anything the politicians have so far managed to suggest.

● Since 1810, the Munich Oktoberfest has been one of the most important events in the drinking calendar. The Bavarian capital annually attracts more than seven million beer drinkers. After 182 years, however, this festival promises to be different. The German embassy will today announce that Oktoberfest '92 has been transferred to... Battersea Park.

Commercial break

AS THE debate over the BBC's future grows more vociferous, who is this galloping to the Corporation's rescue on his white charger? None other than the ubiquitous Sir Tim Bell, who according to rumour, this week signed up the

Turkish government as the latest addition to his long list of clients. Yesterday, Bell, who has been advising the BBC since 1987, was given approval for a series of advertisements designed to sell out the BBC's merits in the run-up to its charter renewal. Bell, the first outside consultant to be employed by the BBC, conceived the ads well before Michael Grade's recent attack. His intervention could hardly be more timely.

There in spirit

THE muesli and brown rice brigade will be hoping that the Green Spirituality Festival at St James's Church Piccadilly later this month will bring a dose of much-needed harmony to the divided world of environmental politics. Top of the bill is Sara Parkin, and topics for debate include "Holding Your Dreams in Community", and "Living Moist in a Dryly up World — Return to a Juicy Participation in Life".

Parkin's contribution will be a talk in which she promises to answer such questions as "Can Greens win power for their ideas without losing their souls?" and "What is Green diplomacy?" Having announced her departure from the party leadership amid much bitterness last month — accusing her former colleagues of "political impotence" and "chronic mistrust" — few could be better qualified to provide the answer.

● The Poor Fools theatre company has so enjoyed the Edinburgh Festival that the Birmingham-based outfit has decided not to go home. The West Midlands company is moving lock, stock and prop to the Scottish capital. Lisa Napier, one of the six permanent actors with the group, says: "Everyone fell in love with the place. All we need now is to find somewhere to live."



MAASTRICHT MANOEUVRES

Europe saw a bizarre burst of intergovernmental co-operation yesterday. In what appeared to be a series of co-ordinated moves, Spain, Italy, Germany and Britain all came riding to the aid of President Mitterrand's embattled referendum cause. None has yet ratified the Maastricht treaty. Indeed, since the Danish rejection, most have been avoiding the subject. But as M Mitterrand's was the only big country courageous enough to put the treaty to a national plebiscite, those with less populist political traditions now feel obliged to help him in his hour of need.

The form the help is taking is high risk. Germany's Chancellor Kohl is joining sides with M. Mitterrand in a televised debate. Britain has respectfully declined to come and join physically in the *ouï* campaign. But it is lending phantom battalions of moral encouragement. Italy has said it "wished it could" bring forward its own ratification process. Spain is more enthusiastic, but then it has large amounts of money at stake in Maastricht, as does Ireland, Greece and Luxembourg as the only countries in the EC so far to have ratified the treaty. The Irish electorate has also endorsed it.

Since part of the strength of the no campaign in France is a growing aversion to Europe's overweening political élite, the high profile adopted by this élite could prove counter-productive. The EC president, Jacques Delors, chief priest of bureaucratic centralism (despite a certain recent backsliding), has promised to step down if his countrymen back home vote no. To put his own popularity on the line alongside that of the French president could be no help to the latter.

It is precisely the appearance of cabalism by the massed governments of Europe that so worries voters in France, as it did in Denmark and increasingly does in Germany and Britain. M Mitterrand clearly wants to emphasise that this is a referendum on further European union rather than a vote of confi-

dence in himself. But the sight of his fellow cabalists somewhat reluctantly hurrying to his aid may only emphasise his desperation.

The British government's position is now strong on tactical cunning, if weak on principle. Ratification was swiftly shelved after the Danish result and ministers breathed a sigh of relief that Parliament was now away until October. John Major could push ratification past his backbenchers, but only with the fiercest of whipping and in the face of possible resignations, all of which he would love to avoid. The French peasant electors could well save the whips much trouble.

With the British presidency now under way, Mr Major has argued that Britain should await the outcome of other ratification processes, rather than risk an embarrassing backbench reverse. This has somewhat mystified those in the Maastricht lobby, who suggest that, as president, Mr Major might have been expected to ask his parliament to take a lead. Mr Major has declined. Instead he has pleased the French by declaring that a French yes vote and subsequent British ratification are essential to the stability of Europe's currency markets. Yet he can equally declare, as his office did yesterday, that a no vote would render British ratification out of the question.

In other words, Britain would feel under no obligation to "ratify" a French no vote (as it felt it had to rectify the Danish one). Although ratification would still be open to Britain, Mr Major would accept the judgment of the French electorate on a matter of a British treaty obligation — a remarkable turn of historical events. He could then turn turtle and remark that, after all, the currency markets will somehow survive (as markets do). Maastricht was perhaps not the best thing since sliced bread and Europe should now concentrate on currency readjustment and achieving the single market by 1993. In this, he would have arrived at the right conclusion, albeit by a tortuous route.

MIDDLE EASTERN PROMISE

More progress has been made at the sixth session of the Middle East peace conference than in the previous five put together. The Israeli negotiators, making full use of the new flexibility given them by Labour's electoral mandate, have broached issues of substance for the first time. The Arabs, especially the Syrians, have responded by suggesting a new flexibility in their own position and agreeing to a brief postponement, beginning today, while all sides observe holidays and consult their governments.

Starting to tackle what divides the Arabs and Israelis is not the same as overcoming the obstacles. As the Syrian spokesman said, the areas of agreement are limited, while those of disagreement are numerous. Similarly the Palestinians, submitting a new ten-point framework for future negotiations, have expressed disappointment that the Israeli side has rejected many of their proposals. But on one thing the Palestinian negotiators, the Israelis, the PLO and probably also the Jordanians are tacitly agreed: speedy elections in the West Bank would wreck the talks.

The proposal to give a democratic voice to the 1.8 million people under occupation for a generation would seem a first sensible step to broadening their rights. But it raises the question of what kind of authority any elected body should have. Should it be simply an administrative council, as the Israelis propose, with limited powers in 15 areas such as health, education and commerce? Or should it be an assembly with the legislative powers of a sovereign parliament? The Palestinians dare not risk agreement to elections that raise hopes of the latter when only the former is on offer.

Moreover, neither the appointed moderate negotiators nor the Israelis want an election that is likely to bring to power the Hamas

Islamic fundamentalists, many of whom reject any compromise in the struggle for all former Palestine. The Jordanians would be equally vexed. And Yasser Arafat and the PLO, anxious to husband their dwindling influence, look askance at any elected body that would invalidate the PLO's claim to be the only true representative of the Palestinians.

The simplest, though transparently cynical, way around this obstacle is for the Israelis to postpone elections indefinitely. The two sides could meanwhile make progress defining the areas where Palestinians should assume responsibility for self-government.

The Israelis, however, are also concentrating on another more promising front: the Golan Heights. Apart from Jerusalem, this was once the most intractable territorial impasse. But the changing realities of what constitutes security, underlined again by the missile war in the Gulf, mean that Israeli strategic planners do not now regard the physical command of the escarpment as militarily essential.

The Rabin government has calculated that of all its negotiating partners, Syria can make the most trouble. An agreement, if only partial, would defuse Syrian opposition to other agreements with Lebanon and Jordan, while avoiding the censure of religious fundamentalists for whom Golan has never been part of biblical Israel. Significantly, Itamar Rabinovich, the chief Israeli negotiator, has written a book about past missed opportunities in Syrian-Israeli relations.

The momentum Mr Rabin has now injected into the negotiations lessens the need for outside pressure to keep the parties at the table. The participants of conflict in the Middle East must be encouraged to sort out their own futures, and the best encouragement is by leaving them to resolve their own differences.

AUNTIE'S AGONY

The BBC is happy to be known as one of Britain's premier cultural institutions. Like many such institutions its management has got itself into a thorough mess. Its charter comes up for renewal in 1996, a date that is hardly just around the corner. Before then, it will have a new director-general, a new management ethos and a wholly transformed marketplace in which to be operating.

Preparing for charter renewal may be a matter for careful thought. The BBC is behaving as if nothing more important has happened since the writing of the American constitution. The corporation scene is now littered with interminable conferences, expensive consultants, embittered speeches to television festivals, executives without number in continuous conclave. Meanwhile the organisation is struggling to cut costs that have been built up since the days when it enjoyed a monopoly of British broadcasting. It is doing so with a lame duck director-general whose successor, John Birt, was named a year ago, but will not take over until next year. No proper management hierarchy can survive such an incubus.

Mr Birt has been given the task of examining the various options for change, thereby ensuring that the options that cause the most upset to established BBC interests will be blamed on him. He is castigated as a philistine demolition man, without being able to get on with the task of subsequent reconstruction. Sir Michael Checkland, the incumbent director-general, must defend his own position, which means appearing as the guardian of the old ways. The organisation has the worst of all worlds.

For this the governors must take the blame. But they are dependent on government both for their jobs and to give the organisation money each year. They cannot

move with the speed of a company board nor relax on the sidelines as might a group of charitable trustees.

The proposals that Mr Birt is putting forward plainly make sense: to streamline the management of the BBC so as to offer the governors and the government — when they make up their minds — a package of television and radio production able to compete in the marketplace. Should the BBC decide to concentrate on what, for want of a better phrase, is called "public-service broadcasting", then it should be able to do so for less public money than now. Should the BBC remain as a purchaser of product for a wide range of channels, then it must know how much that product should cost. This has nothing to do with programme quality or market definition as such, merely with the cost of producing broadcast material.

None of this is really sellable to the BBC's embattled and demoralised staff until they know what the BBC's purpose is to be. At present, they are to be left in suspension until 1996. As the recent negotiations over football coverage showed, the competitive framework for broadcasting in Britain is changing by the month. Some of it is regulated, some not; some of it is profit-orientated (or at least Treasury-orientated), some retains traces of public service. New radio channels, such as next week's Classic FM, are altering the rationale of the BBC's own channels.

The BBC is certainly the custodian of an immense store of broadcasting and cultural talent. Its case that this store deserves some statutory and budgetary protection is a strong one. But the case cannot be made with a divided management and an absurdly protracted charter review period. The governors should insist that both be briskly curtailed by whatever means are necessary.

Getting UN's act together on crises

From Sir Michael Marshall, MP for Arundel (Conservative)

Sir, The appalling scale of famine in Somalia and the ever-increasing human tragedies in Mozambique, Yugoslavia and Iraqi Kurdistan all bring into question once again the United Nations' ability to react promptly and effectively.

The dispatch of a further 3,500 armed troops to Somalia has demonstrated the need for a military as well as civil presence to prevent looting of essential food and medical supplies. Similarly, the use of US Hercules transport planes from bases in Kenya shows how military resources are seen as the first line of reserve in disaster relief.

Yet it is no secret that the United Nations is desperately short of access to military resources, whether for peacekeeping or disaster relief operations. In the past, many countries have shown a reluctance to maintain their budgeted level of financial contributions to the UN and there has been a tendency to regard provision of military resources for peacekeeping and relief operations as a matter which should be judged on a case-by-case basis.

It is with this background that the UN secretary-general has invoked chapter 8 of the UN charter in urging geo-political groups to earmark resources for disaster relief on a regional basis. Nato has responded with the creation of a co-ordinating centre for disaster relief both inside and outside the alliance area based in Brussels.

Yet it is clear that much still remains to be done if there is to be widespread international agreement for the large-scale "earmarking" required to take full advantage of not only effective military command structures but also the infrastructure of transport, telecommunications and medical resources.

Two opportunities present themselves in the near future — the meeting of the General Assembly of the UN in New York next month and, more immediately, at next week's meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in Stockholm.

While it is easy to make criticisms of a lack of co-ordination within the UN agencies, it is to be hoped that ministers, diplomats and parliamentarians will take these opportunities to put military resources to wider peaceful use.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MARSHALL
(President,
Inter-Parliamentary Council),
House of Commons,
September 1.

Old school ties

From Professor Emeritus Ted Walker

Sir, The points made in Matthew d'Ancona's review (August 22) of *Old School Ties* by Tim Devlin and Hywel Williams are well made and well taken. However, the authors' claim, quoted by Mr d'Ancona, that the Falklands war artist Linda Kitson's old school is now an open prison is untrue.

While one has no reason to doubt Ms Kitson's recollection of "real sadism" among the female Flashmen of Tortington Park near Arundel, the fact is that, 21 years ago, her school became the British campus of this American liberal arts college. Ford open prison is about a mile away, literally on the other side of the tracks, and was formerly a Royal Navy air station.

I do, however, recall being seriously consulted by the college's first academic dean about the possibility of acquiring the services of one of Ford's then nationally celebrated inmates, a noted embezzler, as a lecturer in business studies during his time in *statu pupillari* just down the road. He was not appointed.

Yours faithfully,
TED WALKER,
New England College
(British campus),
Tortington Park,
Arundel, West Sussex,
August 22.

From Professor J. D. Fage

Sir, Matthew d'Ancona observes that "only a talent nurtured in this country could have produced a vision as weird and marvellous as the film *If*."

Zéro de Conduite might seem a more appropriate assessment — and I suspect that Lindsay Anderson might have had Vigo's little masterpiece in mind when embarking on his chef d'oeuvre.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. FAGE,
Hafod Awel, Pennal,
Machynlleth, Powys,
August 23.

From Mr T. J. Grinstead

Sir, I have always believed that the only reason for public schools was to maintain the teaching of seam picking and forward passing.

Yours,
T. J. GRINSTEAD,
153 Lower Camden,
Chislehurst, Kent,
August 26.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Penalties of fixed exchange rate

From Mr Paul N. Arthur

Sir, In your leader, "Making time" (August 27), you suggest that "obsession with 'prestige' is threatening to ruin" the economies of Britain and its EC partners.

As Wolfgang Münchau cogently demonstrated, however (European View, August 25), any realignment of values is liable to increase rather than diminish speculative pressures, risking in two years the government's overall economic strategy.

This is inevitable in a market where prices are determined arbitrarily in fixed-rate systems, and where over 85 per cent of demand and supply is speculative rather than trade-related.

Those who trade and benefit from it (i.e., all of us) are not, however, unaffected by currency exchange rates, and it is timely to question whether monetary mechanisms should be used by any country to sustain a currency valuation which serves only to structuralise chronic balance of payments deficits — or surpluses. The concomitant effects for exports, industry and employment are only too obvious.

The government has honourably, but wrongly, committed itself to a system of fixed exchange rates which has enormous advantages for Germany, but benefits Britain only in so far as it has functioned as an ersatz income policy — a benefit which could also be achieved by, for example, offering significant tax advantages to companies which link wage rises to productivity.

For the sake of their national economies, governments should attempt to establish currency valuations which will minimise imbalances in the demand for goods and services, and restrict the use of monetary policy to

the control of aggregate monetary demand or, when appropriate, to fund public deficits.

The government should not seek to leave the European monetary system but to abolish it.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
PAUL N. ARTHUR,
Avenida de Burgos 39, 4 Izq,
Chamartin,
Madrid 28036,
August 29.

From Mr Graham Hitchen

Sir, Amidst the excitement and speculation concerning the rise and fall in value of the pound, the "will he or won't he?" debate of interest rate increases and ERM realignment, youth unemployment is soaring.

Almost one million young people aged between 16 and 25 are now unemployed — twice as many as two years ago, when the current recession was just beginning.

No doubt the government will assure these young people that all will be well once the economy comes out of recession (although, as the CBI predicts, that may be some way off yet) and that the government's current policies are the best way of bringing that about.

But this is of little solace to those without work, training or education, and with the growing threat of social security benefit cuts in the autumn spending round.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HITCHEN
(General Secretary),
British Youth Council,
57 Chalton Street, NW1,
September 1.

Business letters, page 19, 21

Cost of financial advice

From Mr Brian Richardson

Sir, Your leading article, "Unfair assurance sales" (August 26), failed to appreciate the significant regulatory improvements introduced over the last two years to assist consumers considering purchasing life insurance and pension products.

Regulation of the marketing of life insurance products is far stricter than for other competing savings vehicles and will be even more so when the latest proposals from the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) are introduced.

As a means of saving, life insurance incurs the bulk of its expenses in setting up the contract. The proposals seek to make prospective policyholders fully aware of this fact and the implications of early surrender for what is a long-term contract.

The Association of British Insurers has supported nearly all the SIB proposals as a way of enhancing consumer information and protection, but it is important that the improvements in the new SIB rules should be endorsed by the Office of Fair Trading.

Furthermore, it is desirable for all interested parties to support the proposed personal investment authority so it becomes the all-embracing retail investment regulator. In this way private investors should enjoy the highest possible standards of competence, authorisation and conduct of business.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN RICHARDSON
(Chairman,
Life Insurance Council),
Association of British Insurers,
51 Gresham Street, EC2,
August 26.

Dolphin safety

From Ms Mary Munson

Sir, The potential for preventing dolphin deaths makes investigation of fisheries and the development of measures to avoid entanglement in drift nets (report, August 25) an urgent priority.

The sonar detection system of dolphins is not well understood, but it has been suggested that dolphins keep their sonar "switched off" for nearly half their lives, for instance when not actively hunting or when not expecting obstructions. Thus, drift nets set far out to sea would not become "dolphin-safe" even if they were fitted with the reflecting devices mentioned in the report.

Most of the world's tuna, swordfish

and squid fisheries which use drift nets are set far out to sea in this manner. In addition, sonar reflectors will do nothing to prevent the millions of sea birds, turtles, seals, sharks and other non-target fish from drowning in drift nets every year.

Dr Margaret Klinowska's work on sonar reflecting devices might well have important applications in coastal fisheries in the UK and many other parts of the world where those devices could save huge numbers of dolphins. However, in the open oceans drift nets will remain "walls of death".

Yours faithfully,
MARY MUNSON
(Wildlife Campaigner),
Greenpeace,
Canonbury Villas, N1,
August 25.

Defiant Luxembourg

From Mr Stephen Williams

Sir, Fifty years ago Luxembourg, the smallest of our Allies, was the first of all the countries overrun and occupied by the Germans openly to defy Nazi captors. In the first few days of September 1942 the entire country came out on general strike. There was chaos throughout the Grand Duchy, no public services, no work done, no general orders obeyed.

Luxembourg's own flag reappeared at the top of the taller buildings. People deliberately spoke in French, which was verboten. The forbidden nationalistic song, *De Feierwon*, was sung or played all over the land. *De Feierwon* worried the Germans almost as much as the "V-sign" and for the Nazis it held the same message.

The strike did not last long — the might of the Third Reich saw to that — but it certainly shook the Germans badly and kept a large number of their troops pinned down in the Grand Duchy for the rest of the war.

At the time the whole non-Axis world praised and congratulated Luxembourg, but it cost the Luxembourgers very dear. Dozens were executed by firing squad, hundreds were imprisoned and thousands were deported for slave labour or to the concentration camps. It was an epic of martyrdom which should be remembered for ever to Luxembourg's credit.

Yours etc.,
STEPHEN WILLIAMS
(Director, Radio Luxembourg),
1933-9, 1945-8,
3 Kinnaird Avenue, W4,
August 28.

The last straw

From Mrs Jennifer Willmore and Miss Vivien Bullivant

Sir, We sisters, both farmers, have been reading your round bale correspondence (August 12, 18, 21) with wry amusement. However, we feel it is time to introduce some accuracy into the subject.

The round bales in question, unwrapped, are straw, not hay, used as feed and bedding for winter-housed stock. The wrapped round bales are silage — grass cut and wilted for a short period, possibly sprayed with molasses or some additive to promote fermentation, which, on being shrink-wrapped in polyethylene, develops into a very palatable and nourishing winter feed.

The blackness of the polyethylene sheathing is a result of incorporating carbon black, which provides the

maximum weather resistance and thus minimises the use of a valuable petroleum-based resource.

We are saddened that the bales appear to offend the eyes of so many. A stubble field liberally peppered with them gives a farmer a warm glow of achievement, similar to that of a successful gardener.

Far better to have these modern methods than the heartbreaking old ways, by which corn, cut and bound in sheaves, was stooked for three weeks before leading it to the barns, at the mercy of the weather, so that many a time the grain sprouted in the ear, and the straw turned black — a less than beautiful sight.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER WILLMORE,
VIVIEN BULLIVANT,
Bullivant and Daughters,
Vicarage Farm, Claxton, York,
August 22.

Factors behind French vote

From Mr Christopher Jackson, MEP for Kent East (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, Europe's show must go on, argues George Brock (article, September 2), in the face of widely expressed alarm about the outcome of the French referendum on Maastricht. He is, of course, correct — it must and it is therefore worth pointing out the other occasions, even before Denmark and Britain joined the EC, when France has been the "backmarker" in moves towards European union.

In 1954, as Mr Brock recalls, the French National Assembly turned down the proposal of the then six member countries to establish a European Defence Community, refusing to debate its ratification. In 1963 General de Gaulle said "non" to Britain's application, made two years earlier, to join the Community. And on June 30, 1965 — in protest over proposals to strengthen the European Parliament, to provide "own funds" for the EC, and to finance the CAP — France withdrew totally from active participation in the EC institutions ("the policy of the empty chair") for some six months, expecting the other five member states to come to heel. Fortunately they did not.

None of this is to downgrade France's unique contribution to the foundation of the EC and positive contributions in many ways since then; but it illustrates the tensions still being debated across the Channel.

Jean-Pierre Cot, leader of the socialist group in the European Parliament, has remarked that European union would save the identity of France, not destroy it. I hope that this sentiment, rather than narrow nationalism, prevails on September 20.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
8 Wellmead Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent,
September 2.

From Mrs Edwina Currie, MP for Derbyshire South (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader, "The French revolt" (August 31), hit the nail on the head. If the French vote against Maastricht on September 20, it will be not because they are anti-Europe or even particularly concerned about the new treaty's details, but because they want to get their president out. The referendum gives them an unexpected early opportunity.

I have just returned from the Val de Loire, a region not noted for its extreme politics. Despite low inflation, local people told me that the persistence of three million unemployed and a severe recession have made the voters exasperated with a president who appears to have no answers. His poor judgment — for example in failing to denounce last year's attempted Soviet coup — leaves him looking old and out of touch.

The dismal performance of Mme Edith Cresson and the well publicised resignation of M Bernard Tapie, urban development minister, 52 days after his appointment to the cabinet (report, May 25) confer no faith in his choice of subordinates. Meanwhile the constitution makes him unchangeable for another three years.

Every time Mitterrand insists he will not resign, whatever the outcome of the referendum, a few more switch from "yes" to "no", on the not unreasonable ground that a big enough majority will force him out. The de Gaulle precedent is cited repeatedly. However it was made clear to me that were Mitterrand now to announce his impending retirement, the electorate would give a sigh of relief, happily vote "yes" and Maastricht could proceed.

Yours sincerely,
EDWINA CURRIE,
House of Commons,
August 31.

Buying British

From Mr R. H. Richardson

Sir, Baroness Faithfull (letter, August 31) may have overlooked the fact that the best is often made in Britain, but a retailer will stock and push the goods on which he obtains the highest margin. Many imported consumer goods are exclusive to one or a limited group of shops and thus allow a high mark-up, whereas the home-produced article, particularly if it is nationally advertised to the public by the manufacturer, has to be much more widely spread.

"Exclusive to us" should not be confused with "The best there is".

Yours faithfully,
ROGER RICHARDSON
(Managing Director),
Beaver & Tapley Ltd.
(Furniture manufacturer),
Scotts Road,
Southall, Middlesex,
September 1.

Sex discrimination

From Ms R. V. Kendall

Sir, Is it not strange that in the present climate of equal opportunity estate agents still insist on referring to the main bedroom as "the master bedroom"?

Yours faithfully,
RUTH V. KENDALL,
3 Grove Footpath,
Surrey,
August 29.

Sports letters, page 22

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 2: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, today received Sir Austin Bunch on relinquishing the appointment as National President of the Association.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit BP Exploration at Dyce, Aberdeenshire, at 11.30 to inaugurate the Miller Field; and, as President of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust and The Prince's Trust, will meet young people helped by the trusts at Rightstart Group, Dyce, at 1.05.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A.M.B. Campbell and Miss C.J. Denman
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Sir Colin and Lady Campbell, of Kibbly Castle, Dunblane, Perthshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Denman, of Stratton House, Stoney Stratton, Somerset.

Mr E.C. Cappabianca and Miss J.E. Mullis
The engagement is announced between Edward, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D. Robert Cappabianca, of Bethesda, Maryland, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Cedric Mullis, of Synthes Farm, Great Toy, Essex.

Mr C.E.S. Green and Miss R.E. Attale
The engagement is announced between Charlie, only son of Mr and Mrs John Green, of Green, of Sloane Street, London, and Rosalind, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeffery Attale, of Emsworth, Hampshire.

Mr J.F. Kean and Miss J.S. Larner
The engagement is announced between Joseph, son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Kean, of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Percy Larner, of Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

Mr P.J. Moorhouse and Miss J.F. Low
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs K.S. Moorhouse, of Burton Joyce, Nottingham, and Judith, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs N.C. Low, of Stonegate, Leicester.

Women of the Year Luncheon

The Duchess of Kent will be a guest speaker at the Women of the Year Luncheon at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, October 26, in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind. The international guest of honour will be Dr Hanan Ashrawi. The founder president of the luncheon is the Marchioness of Louthian; the vice-presidents are the Countess of Airrie, Lady Healy, Mrs Charlotte Baden-Powell and Miss Virginia Wade; the executive chairman is Miss Val Anson; and the vice-chairmen are the Hon Diana Maitland and Miss Paddy Campbell.

Marriages

Mr D. Henderson and Miss S. Vasey
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 29, 1992, in Swindon, of James Bryce Duncan Henderson, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. Henderson, to Sarah Elizabeth Vasey, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Vasey.

Mr E.M. James and Mrs M.B. Porter
The marriage of Evan James and Miriam Porter took place quietly in Abingdon, on Wednesday, September 2, 1992.

Mr R.J.W. Sudell and Mrs M.R. Lummoore
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 29, at St Lawrence's, Appley, Cumbria, of Mr Richard Sudell, son of Mr and Mrs R.J.W. Sudell, to Mrs Margaret Lummoore, daughter of the late Surgeon Commander and Mrs John Graham Moore Nisbett, of the Drum, Cumbria. The Rev Dr Peter Norton officiated.

Mr P.J. Moorhouse and Miss J.F. Low
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs K.S. Moorhouse, of Burton Joyce, Nottingham, and Judith, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs N.C. Low, of Stonegate, Leicester.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Put on, then, garments that suit, God's chosen and beloved people: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. Colossians 3:12

BIRTHS

ATKIN - On August 31st at The Humana Hospital Nottingham, to Julie and Terry, a son, Paul.

ARMOUR - On August 31st 1992, to Kerry and Timothy, a daughter, Rebecca Kirilov.

BREIDFORD - On August 31st, to Rachel (nee Butler) and David, a daughter, Daisy Scarlett. All well.

CASE - On August 30th to Lucia (nee Lee) and Nick, a son, Charles William Nick.

CHESTNUT - On September 1st 1992, to Marie and Simon, a daughter, Olivia Mary Robertson, a sister for Matthew and Hannah.

CLARK - On August 27th 1992, to Sue and Ben, a daughter, Anna Grace, a sister for Jeremy.

CONSTANTINE - See BIRTHS.

COOPER - On September 1st at The Humana Hospital Nottingham, to Julie and Terry, a son, Paul.

CRAMP - On August 29th 1992, to Nicholas, to Jackie (nee Clift) and Tim, a daughter, Hannah Victoria.

EGERTON - On August 28th, to Fiona (nee Irvine) and Joe, a son (not born).

HARDMAN - On August 28th 1992, to Joanna (nee Curtis) and Andrew, a beautiful daughter, Jessica Rose.

HUSSEY - On August 31st to Catherine (nee Edgell) and David, a son, William George.

JONES - On August 29th 1992, to Christine (nee Turner) and Ken, a son, Lora India, a sister for Sam.

PIKE - On August 28th at The Sarum Hospital, to Carolyn (nee Bush) and Shaun, a son, Alexander Richard.

RAINBOW - On August 30th at Queen Charlotte's, to Julie (nee Constantine) and Stephen, a beautiful daughter, Emily Laura.

RILEY - On August 31st to Jackie (nee Rogers) and David, a son, Alexander David.

ROTHBART - On August 28th, to Lynda and Eric, a daughter, Sophie Louise, a sister for Giles and Dominic.

TINDALL - On August 28th, to Janet (nee Constantine) and Simon, a son, Harry Simon.

MARRIAGES

R.T. J. GOLL-ALLEN and J. GOLL-ALLEN
Julia and John Goll-Allen were married quietly on September 2nd 1992.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

WHEELER - Bobby and Leonard. Congratulations on your Golden Wedding with love from the family.

PERSONAL APPEARS IN LIFE & TIMES

SECTION - PAGE 11



Desolated: Caroline Colthurst sits by the lake at Pitchford Hall, which she and her husband have restored and now must sell. She calls Mr Mellor's reply insulting

Birthdays today

Mr Geoff Arnold, cricketer, 48; Air Marshal Sir Erik Bennett, 64; Dr Clare Bursell, educationist, 61; Miss Pauline Collins, actress, 52; Professor R. Cowell, director, Nottingham Polytechnic, 55; Air Marshal Sir Gerald Gibbs, 96; the Rev A.H.H. Harbottle, Chaplain to the Queen, 67; Mr Al Jardine, singer, 50; Mr Graham Kemp, chief cashier, Bank of England, 52; Professor Alison Lurie, writer, 66; Mr Richard MacCormac, president, RIBA, 54; Miss Susan Milne, 45; Sir Michael Neuber, MP, 59; the Right Rev V.S. Nichols, former Bishop of Sodor and Man, 75; Mrs Marion Rawlings, former president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 68; Sir Mark Russell, diplomat, 63; Sir Gasson Thorn, former Prime Minister of Lesotho, 64; Miss Raquel Welch, actress, 52.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Matthew Boulton, engineer, Birmingham, 1728; Louis Henri Sullivan, architect, Boston, Massachusetts, 1856; Jean Jaurès, Socialist leader and orator, Castres, France, 1859.

DEATHS: Sir Edward Coke, jurist, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, 1634; Oliver Cromwell, Protector 1653-58, London, 1658; Sir John Rennie, civil engineer, Bengeo, Hertfordshire, 1874; Ivan Turgenev, writer, Bougival, France, 1883; Sir Arthur Sullivan, Australian painter, 1943; Eduard Benes, president of Czechoslovakia 1935-48, Sezimovo Ústí, 1948; e Cummings, poet and painter, London, 1963; Ho Chi Minh, president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam 1945-69, Hanoi, 1969.

Mellor rejects plan by English Heritage to save Elizabethan hall and its contents

DAVID Mellor, the new national heritage secretary, has rejected a plan by English Heritage to save Elizabethan Pitchford Hall complete with all its contents.

Mr Mellor said yesterday: "While the object is desirable on its own terms, the calls on the resources of English Heritage are already great and support for Pitchford can only take place to the detriment of other activities."

Mrs Caroline Colthurst, the present owner of Pitchford, said: "It is insulting to be told that other projects will suffer when the minister has not even said what these are. We have been told for six weeks that the government was seriously considering a rescue plan but all we have had from

Marcel Binney, architecture correspondent, reports on a contentious ministerial decision which may split an historic house from its contents and close the building to the public

Mr Mellor is a letter saying he wishes us well in difficult times."

The Colthursts have offered to give the house and 76 acres to the nation if £1.8 million could be found to acquire the contents and open the house to the public.

After an attempt by the National Trust to take over the house had failed because of the £7 million endowment it required, Jocelyn Stevens, the new chairman of English Heritage, devised a scheme which his organisation

would meet the cost of taking over the house from its existing budget, while the purchase of the principal contents would be financed by the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

While the Heritage Fund is free to allocate grants as it wishes, English Heritage requires ministerial approval for the acquisition of property.

The contents of Pitchford span over five centuries of continuous ownership. Every room is crowded with furniture, portraits, prints, objects

d'art and nicknacks of every kind.

These will now be dispersed in a three-day sale by Christies at Pitchford on September 28-29. The hall itself, which is on sale through Knight, Frank and Rutley, is likely to find a buyer but the entirety of house and contents will be severed completely.

Pitchford is one of the largest, finest and best preserved of timber-framed Elizabethan houses and has been sensitively restored over the last ten years with the help of grants from English Heritage. Before Mr and Mrs Colthurst were forced to sell the house as a result of Lloyd's losses it had been due to open to the public. A new owner would not be obliged to continue that.

School announcements

Arkwright Design Technology
The Patron, Sir Bob Reid, Chairman, Bridgwater Board, presented certificates to award winners at Euston House on Wednesday, September 2, 1992.

BEATTIE - With gratitude and pride we remember Peter Beattie, who died on September 2, 1992, at his home, 11, St. Mary's Church, Amersham on Thursday September 17th at 11.30 am.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

LEGAL NOTICES

THE PROBATION ACT 1992
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Probation Act 1992, which provides for the establishment of a new Probation Service, will be in force from 1st October 1992.

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Mr P.D. Briggs, Head Master of William Hulme's Grammar School, Manchester.

Berkhamstead School
The Michaelmas Term commences on September 3 and closes on December 16. R.I. Vandy (Cox) is Head of School and D.N. Porter (Fry) is Deputy. Prize Giving and Speeches will be on October 9 with Mr Jonathan Evans as Chief Guest and the Speeches will be on Friday, December 11, at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Dean Close School
The Autumn Term begins today with Mr John Richardson, formerly of Eton College, as the new Headmaster. Simon Bates is Headboy and Elise Oldham is Headgirl. The Senior School Prize Giving and Speeches will be on Saturday, September 26 and the Carol Service will be on Friday, December 11, at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

St Paul's School
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ers at 9.30 am in the Princess Hall, Colford School.

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Leicester High School for Girls
The Autumn Term at Leicester High School began on Wednesday, September 2, when Mrs P.A. Watson took up her appointment as Headmistress. The Head Girl is Christina Mason and the Captain of Games is Rosie Harrison. Speech Day will be held at the Queen's Hall, Leicester University on Wednesday, September 23, and the Speaker will be the Right Rev Dr T.P. Butler, Bishop of Leicester. A Careers Conference has been arranged for Tuesday, November 3, at the School. The Christmas Carol Service will be held on Friday, December 11. The Carol Service will be held at the Church of St James the Great on Tuesday, December 15. Term ends on Thursday, December 17.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BEDWYR LEWIS JONES

Professor Bedwyr Lewis Jones of the University of North Wales, Bangor, an academic who succeeded in making Welsh literary and linguistic matters comprehensible and interesting to a wide audience, died on August 29 aged 58. He was born on September 1, 1933.

THERE is an honoured tradition in the Welsh departments of the University of Wales that academics are expected to address a public outside college walls as well as students within them. Bedwyr Lewis Jones was a notable example of such an academic. In this respect he was a worthy successor to his own professor, the late Sir Thomas Parry. Both of them had the ability to present complex matters lucidly and interestingly and to highlight the most important aspects of any topic discussed. This ability served both of them well in addressing literary societies in chapel vestries or learned academics at international conferences.

Bedwyr Lewis Jones wrote books on a variety of topics — the Arthurian legend, 19th and 20th century Welsh literature, and place names. He also wrote scores of articles on matters ranging over the whole history of Welsh literature. Later, he had become much interested in place names. He inherited this interest from Professor Melville Richards, his predecessor at Bangor. Recently Jones had

been appointed vice-president of the Society for Name Studies in Britain.

He was appointed professor and head of the Welsh department at Bangor in 1974. He had an outgoing personality and, because he was interested in people from all walks of life, he was popular with his students and college staff. Of late he had found the excessive and increasing demands of departmental and college administration burdensome. As he said, he had been appointed, in the first place, to teach and to do research work, not to write memoranda about memoranda. Nevertheless, in addition to being a very successful teacher and researcher, he performed all of his administrative duties with exemplary thoroughness. He served on several university committees and he served, too, on Welsh Arts Council committees and he served as chairman of the council of the National Eisteddfod of Wales and as vice president of its court.

On occasion, his outspoken displeasure with certain procedures or prevarications would enliven some profoundly boring committees. His colourful exaggerations were worthy of some of the medieval Welsh tales and were, perhaps, evidence of his Irish connections on his father's side.

He was, however, a very sensitive and sympathetic man. No one was more ready to help any student in need or in difficulties. Above all, he was devoted to his family, to his wife Eleri, whom he married in 1960, and to their three children, Nia, Gronw and Huw. In his very last lecture, one that he was supposed to deliver in Denmark on September 4, he quoted from a famous medieval lament, where the poet expresses his shock and pain on the death of his prince, Llywelyn, the last Prince of independent Wales, who was killed in a skirmish with the English near Builth in 1282.

Bedwyr Lewis Jones's untimely death has shocked and bereaved his multitude of friends all over Wales and in many parts of the world.



PAUL HAAKON

Paul Haakon, a Danish-American dancer who flourished in the early days of American ballet, has died aged 78.

PAUL Haakon was born in Denmark in 1914 and started his ballet studies at the Royal Theatre School in Copenhagen before being taken to America when young. He became a pupil and protégé of Mikhail Fokine in New York and at 13 made his debut with the Fokine Ballet in *Harlequinade*.

Another of his American teachers was Mikhail Mordkin, who like Fokine had made his name primarily with the Diaghilev Ballet and settled in America after the Russian revolution.

In 1930 Haakon returned to Europe for further studies in France, England and Spain, and he became a member of Anna Pavlova's company in his last days before her death in 1931.

He was back in America in time to appear as a guest with Balanchine's American Ballet for its first New York season in March 1935, dancing in *Reinhardt*, which concluded the opening night, and *Dreams* a few days later. His technique and his engaging

manner were both praised. However, he did not throw in his lot with the young company, where the rapidly developing repertoire might have advanced him as it did his slightly older contemporaries William Dollar and Lew Christensen.

Instead, Haakon starred in several musicals and in the ballets at Radio City Music Hall. He also danced in hotels and what were described as "the better nightclubs". He did, however, for a time join the Littlefield Ballet, founded by Catherine Littlefield in Philadelphia as the first ballet company entirely staffed and directed by Americans. It was also the first American company to tour in Europe (Paris, Brussels and London in 1937).

There were also various guest performances. Haakon won praise in *Le Spectre de la rose*, but when he and his frequent partner Patricia Bowman appeared in an inferior production of *Sheherazade* in a large arena they were likened by one commentator to kittens playing at tigers. After withdrawing from performing Haakon, in 1963, became ballet master and instructor of José Greco's Spanish dance company.

Erich Bielka-Karlreut

ERICH Bielka-Karlreut, diplomat and former foreign minister of Austria, died in Vienna on September 1 aged

84. He was foreign minister from 1974 to 1976 in the Socialist Party government of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Bielka-Karlreut had also served as Austria's ambassador to Turkey, Switzerland and France.

Roe deer cull 'too high'

Roe deer in Britain are being culled at an unnecessarily high rate, a report by the Forestry Commission suggests.

The animals cause extensive damage to trees, but in most years high birth rates are countered by high mortality rates among young deer, it says. Research indicates that annual culls of only between 15 and 25 per cent are needed, rather than the 25 to 40 per cent previously recommended.

Roe Deer Biology and Management, Forestry Commission Bulletin 105, HMSO, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT, £5.50.

Window tribute

A new window has been dedicated at Gloucester cathedral as a tribute to the composer Herbert Howells who was born in Littledean, Gloucestershire, the son of a plumber. The four-panelled window in the Lady Chapel was unveiled on the hundredth anniversary of his birth.

PIOTR JAROSZEWICZ

Piotr Jaroszewicz, a former prime minister of Poland, was found murdered near Warsaw with his wife yesterday aged 82. He was born on October 8, 1909.



PIOTR Jaroszewicz rose to prominence under Edward Gierk, who was party leader during the 1970s, and was closely associated with the "dash for growth" policies of those years. As early successes were followed by increasing difficulties, it was Jaroszewicz's unenviable task to announce unpopular measures such as the food price increases of 1976, and then, in effect, to take the blame. A mildly reformist figure within the context of Polish communism, Jaroszewicz paid the political price when he left the party and state leadership in 1980.

Jaroszewicz was born in Nieswiez, in Warsaw province. He was educated at the Free University in Warsaw, and like his father became a teacher and then headmaster of a secondary school. After 1939 Jaroszewicz worked as a teacher in the USSR, and it was at this time (in 1943) that he joined the Polish army. He completed an officer's course and then fought the whole way from Leningrad to Berlin, being promoted to colonel and becoming the army's deputy head of political and educational affairs.

Late in 1945 he became deputy minister of defence (a post he held until 1950); he was also promoted to major-general and later lieutenant-general. In 1950 he became a deputy chairman of the state economic planning commission and then, from 1952 until 1970, deputy chairman of the council of ministers, a post he held simultaneously with being minister of the coal industry (1954-56) and permanent Polish representative to Comecon and a member of its executive committee (1955-70).

Jaroszewicz joined the Polish Workers Party (in effect the Communist Party) in 1944, and was a delegate at its first congress. He became a mem-

ber of its successor, the Polish United Workers Party, and of its central committee from the party's foundation in December 1948. He became a candidate member of the ruling political bureau in 1964 and a full member in December 1970 at the same meeting at which Gomulka was replaced by Edward Gierk. Three days later he became chairman of the Council of Ministers, or premier, a choice that appeared to reflect Soviet support, his long experience in the state and economic machines and the fact that he had not associated himself with any particular faction in the leadership of the time.

Gomulka's departure had been precipitated by a series of food price increases, made public — with some ineptitude — just before Christmas. The result was industrial unrest in the Baltic ports. The new party leader, Gierk, accompanied

by Jaroszewicz, went immediately to meet the striking workers and won their confidence. The increases were cancelled, a two-year price freeze was announced, and an ambitious bid was launched to restructure the Polish economy based upon the high rates of investment, foreign borrowing and rising real incomes.

Briefly, in 1973, Poland had the third highest growth rate in the world; and real incomes rose by 40 per cent in five years. In the end the strategy proved unsustainable: the cost of servicing the foreign debt rose rapidly, there was a sharp increase in the subsidies that were required to maintain price stability and exports failed to increase to the extent that had been expected. In 1976 it was Jaroszewicz's unenviable task to announce an "adjustment".

On June 24 he informed the Sejm (Polish parliament) that

special allowances would be paid to low-earning workers and pensioners, with higher prices for farmers, in order to balance new and far higher retail prices for food. The increases were certainly substantial. Meat was to rise by 76 per cent in price, sugar by 100 per cent and butter and cheese by at least a third.

There was an immediate reaction: work stopped all over the country, strike committees began to be established, and men from the Ursus tractor plant in Warsaw blocked the main east-west railway line and tore up the tracks. In Radom workers marched to the city centre, besieged the party headquarters and then broke into them. Meat and sausages were passed to the crowds outside with shouts of "Red bourgeoisie!", and then the entire building was set on fire. Jaroszewicz appeared on television the same evening to announce that, in view of the "valuable amendments and contributions" put forward by the working class, the price increases would be withdrawn for further discussion.

Jaroszewicz offered to resign at this point but although his offer was declined his political authority had been fatally damaged. In February 1980, addressing a party congress, Gierk identified him as the person most directly responsible for the "mistakes" which had taken place in economic management. Jaroszewicz was forced to step down as prime minister and lost his position in the Politburo; he failed to secure re-election to the Central Committee. His son's reputation for the way he dealt in foreign cars added to his unpopularity.

In 1981 he suffered the humiliation of a formal expulsion from the party for his policy mistakes and disregard of criticism. He was later arrested and held from December 1981 until December 1982, while a commission determined whether or not he should be formally prosecuted. Jaroszewicz did not subsequently return to political life, and his final years were spent as a pensioner.

DAVINDER SINGH PARMAR

Sardar Davinder Singh Parmar, president of the British Sikhs Association, died in London on August 27 aged 65. He was born in Amritsar on December 31, 1926.



SARDAR Davinder Singh Parmar was a descendant of the Kanhya confederacy, which was the most important of the twelve Royal Houses of the Sikh-led Punjab in the last century.

His great-grandfather was General Arjun Singh who served in the Anglo-Sikh wars and on December 16, 1846, signed the Treaty of Bharwal with the British after the Sikh defeat at Sobroon. This resulted in the annexation of the Punjab.

Davinder Singh continued his family's tradition both of gallantry and of service. He took an active part in the defence of the Golden Temple at Amritsar during the fierce fighting which followed the partition of India in 1947. He continued fighting even though he was slightly injured in his heel from machine-gun fire. He was renowned throughout Indian royal circles for his skill and daring while pursuing tiger, bear and leopard. Villagers would call on his services to track down big game that was a danger to human life. Later in life he became more conservation-minded, preferring to use a camera instead of a gun.

Singh moved to England in 1954 with his English wife at a time when there were few Sikhs in this country, but remained keenly concerned with the events in the Punjab.

He soon became a focal point for Sikhs in Britain, and was the founder in England of the Akali Dal, which is one of the most prominent and powerful Sikh political parties in India. He was one of the first Sikhs in Britain to press for an independent Sikh state in the Punjab. He became president of the British Sikhs Association, which embodied his interest in human rights.

He was distinguished in Sikh circles as the founder of the Khalistan movement in Britain and as a staunch advocate of an independent Sikh state. In 1984, following Operation Blue Star, in which thousands of Sikhs perished in conflict over the Golden Tem-

ple, he was elected minister of defence of the Khalistan government in exile.

Outside Sikh circles he is probably best known for his successful campaign of the 1970s to change the law which required Sikhs to wear crash helmets on motor cycles. Singh's photograph is in a standard textbook on Sikhism depicting riding a light motorcycle outside No 10 Downing Street wearing a turban to challenge the law. This law had necessitated the removal of the turban, which is contrary to Sikh belief and practice. He argued that under Queen's regulations in the British Raj, Sikhs were expected to adhere strictly to the

religious rules concerning appearance; they could be court-martialled if they failed to do so. So why could they not be allowed to observe these practices when using motor cycles in Britain?

Outside the political sphere, as well as inside it, to Sikhs internationally and to all those who knew him, he was regarded as a man of unwavering integrity and great generosity of spirit; a popular man, concerned not just with national but also individual problems. He had written his memoirs which are awaiting publication.

Sardar Davinder Singh leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters.

Latest wills

Lord Keaton, of Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire, chairman of Countryside 1964-75 and chairman and chief executive of the British National Oil Corporation 1976-9, left estate valued at £336,170.

Wing Commander James Herbert Thompson, of Welton, North Humberside, who achieved in 1941 the singular feat of obtaining the surrender and capture of a German U-boat by an aircraft, left estate valued at £112,920 net.

Mr Walter Benjamin Watson Harris, of Oxford, left estate valued at £126,612 net.

Mr Graham Reginald Newman, of London N6, left estate valued at £1,215,246 net. He left £100,000 each to the Shipwrights' Company and the Royal Society for Deaf Children, Margate, and £50,000 each to the Balic Exchange Charitable Society, RNLI and Friends of St Mark's Hospital, London.

Muriel Doreen Pile, of Devizes, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £243,907 net. She left £50,000 and effects to personal legacies and the residue to the National Trust.

APPRECIATIONS

Malcolm Anson

MAY I add something to your excellent obituary of Malcolm Anson (August 26). He was chairman of the Cancer Help Centre in Bristol from 1983 until the early summer of 1991. This is a small organisation compared with others of which he was chairman, but has an international reputation, and he said of it that it was in some ways the most important thing that he did.

Those of us who worked with him there had a great respect for his gentle but very real authority; we also had a profound affectionate personal regard for him. He steered the centre through its early difficulties — mainly financial and brought order to the somewhat confused ideas that the founders had about management. When the centre was hit by a very damaging piece of research in the autumn of 1990, Anson helped council and staff back on to their feet, and saw them through to the first beginnings of a recovery, before retiring.

In April 1988 he decided to find out for himself what it was like to experience the techniques and therapies of cancer self-help, and joined with others in a week's resi-



dential course for people with cancer at the centre. Among the papers he left was a large brown envelope containing letters and cards from those who shared the week with him; they demonstrate that he made a personal friend of every one of them.

The centre solicited his help because of a need for the kind of friend who could become Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers and chair big companies. It discovered it also had on board a very caring man with a great love for his fellow men.

Christopher Pilkington
Bristol chairman, council
of Cancer Help Centre

Sir Robert Somerville

SIR Robert Somerville (obituary, August 8) will be remembered by all who knew him for his warmth and personality; sense of humour; and quiet shrewdness. His personal characteristics quite belied the dry picture which might emerge from studying his achievements in *Who's Who*.

This contrasting picture is not the result merely of a scholar mellowing with old age; his college tutor's letter of recommendation of 63 years ago only echoes the judgment of those who knew him in later life: "a man of many scholarly interests and of wide reading... he has an all-round knowledge, can tackle a problem well, has a shrewd head, and would make an excellent

administrator. He has a most pleasant and lovable character, and gets on well with all whom he meets."

For a man to have been worthy of such an assessment in his twenties which held equally good in his mid-eighties would be something of which most men could be proud.

Robert's later life was marked by a willingness to assist in all levels of historical research from analysing the smallest detail to giving freely of his own extensive accumulated knowledge. He was a very sociable man who loved travel, company, and the arts. He found an ideal companion in his later years in his wife, and they pursued their interests together; he was fully fit and active up to his death.

M. K. Ridley

LEONARD BURKAT

Leonard Burkat, a music writer whose programme notes became familiar to concert-goers around the world, died in Danbury, Connecticut, on August 23 aged 73.

ALTHOUGH he began his programme notes service only in 1973, Leonard Burkat's output was prodigious. In all, he supplied annotations to nearly 15,000 musical works, and among the hundreds of ensembles which used his services were the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, Lincoln Centre, and the Mos-

cow Virtuosi. Burkat also published a bibliographical study of the early editions of the Haydn symphonies, and a study of Olivier Messiaen's compositional style.

Educated at Harvard and Columbia Universities, Burkat began working as a librarian in the music division of Boston Public Library. He later became administrative director of the Berkshire Music Centre at Tanglewood in Lenox, Massachusetts, until in 1963 he was hired by Columbia Records. He rose to be a vice-president of CBS and when he retired started the Leonard Burkat programme notes service.

Sept 3 ON THIS DAY 1886

The festivities in the Hungarian capital marking the 200th anniversary of the raising of the siege of Buda and the defeat of the Turks were described, as one might imagine, as being enthusiastically received, but The Times's view of the proceedings was quite different.

THE BUDAPEST FETES

Budapest, Sept 2 Today was the bicentenary of the recapture of Buda from the Turks. There was not much in the fetes, the chief items in the original programme, including an historical procession, being dropped out, because the Hungarians, who are now friends with the Turks, scrupled to give the celebration a character which might have offended the Porte and have been misconstrued by Russia and other Powers. No invitations were issued to the Diplomatic Body, and Mr Lee, American Chargé d'Affaires, who came in a private capacity, was the only diplomat present. The Municipality of Budapest, however, made a great mistake in not informing the guests who had been invited that the fetes would be so inconsiderable. Among the population of Budapest the event excited only the most languid interest. The streets of Buda were belleged, but not those of Pest. The shops were open as usual, but there was no appearance of a public holiday. To make matters worse, the municipality egregiously mismanaged what little of festivity there was. It will be remembered that the municipalities of Berlin and Munich refused the invitations, and this contributed no doubt to damp the preparations. However, the German Emperor sent a military deputation, representing the Bavarian, Saxon, Baden, and other regiments who fought in the siege. There were deputa-

tions also from the Vienna Town Council and several Hungarian cities, and 70 descendants of combatants. The Emperor-King did not attend today's proceedings at all, and this was another disappointment.

At the Casino yesterday there was a very brilliant assemblage of Ministers, Generals, magistrates and Cardinals. But a learned professor got up to read a preposterously long essay on the siege of Buda, and after 15 minutes the Emperor manifested such signs of impatience that the Burgomaster had to suspend the sitting, upon which His Majesty departed. The Burgomaster, who had prepared an address thanking the King for his attendance, had to read this document, substituting the third for the second person, which, considering His Majesty's premature retirement, caused subdued amusement.

Today's commemorative fete consisted of High Mass in the garrison church, the unveiling of a memorial tablet of the meanness description on the church wall, and an economical afternoon banquet of 60 covers only. The garrison church is not the oldest in Buda, but it was the first in which Christian service was solemnized after the recapture.

After this there was an adjournment to the Palatinplatz, cardinals, dignitaries, and generals elbowing their way through the crowd to reach a shabby platform covered with cane chairs. Soldiers were drawn up all round the square, and there were plenty of police and stewards, but no lane was kept for the guests. Opposite to the platform, which faced the church wall, was a rostrum with a canopy, from which speeches were delivered by the Vice-Burgomaster and A.M. Havas. The latter's weak voice was almost inaudible, and he spoke at excruciating length. The sun was broiling hot. The German officers with helmets on in vain pushed back their chairs to catch some shade from the scanty awning. The bishops fanned themselves with handkerchiefs and gasped.

Prizewinners gather two new trophies

By ANGUS NICOL

TWO new trophies have been added to the prizes for piping at the Argyllshire Gathering. The first is in memory of the late Brigadier Lorne Campbell of Airds, VC. The trophy is in the form of a silver swan engraved with a crown (the crest of Campbell of Airds) set on a granite base. It is to be awarded to the best soldier piper at the gathering each year, judged on the results of the five major events: the Gold Medal, the Senior Piobaireachd, the March, Strathspey, and Reel for former winners, the A grade Marches, and the A grade Strathspey and Reel.

Piping

The first winner of this trophy was Pipe-Major Alasdair Gillies, OOH, who won the Senior Piobaireachd and came second in the March, Strathspey, and Reel, which gave him an unassailable lead.

The weather was unkind to those pipers who played in the morning. Cold showers of rain made fingers stiff and slippery, and were not conducive to the manual dexterity necessary for cool bag — the little music.

Argyll is, I believe, the only part of the Highlands where there is a specific word in Gaelic for the (short) space of time between two showers: eadar-dha-shian. The sun

came out in the afternoon, however, and greatly, if unfairly, assisted the afternoon competitors.

The march competition has acquired a new trophy of its own this year. A handsome glass bowl presented by Oban Glassworks will be retained for a year by the winner of the A grade march competition. This year's winner was an American piper, Michael Cusack.

The A grade Strathspey and Reel event was won by Simon Marshall, who was also second in the A March. The B grade March was won by James Murray, who came fifth in the B Strathspey and Reel, which was won by Duncan Mac-

Donald. For the first time at the Argyllshire Gathering there was a competition for jigs, open to all comers who entered for it on the games field. It proved to be popular with pipers, judges, and public and 22 pipers competed. It was won by Alasdair Gillies.

Full results:
Lorne Campbell of Airds Trophy: Alasdair Gillies. Royal Celtic Society's Prize: Alasdair Gillies. March A: 1, Oban Glassworks Trophy, Royal Scottish Pipe Society's Bronze Star: Michael Cusack. 2, Simon Marshall. 3, Colin Roy MacLellan. 4, Iain Hume. 5, John Gillespie. Strathspey and Reel A: 1, Argyllshire Gathering Silver Medal: Simon Marshall. 2, Roderick MacLeod. 3, Michael Cusack. 4, F.D. Veltz. 5, William Morrison. March B: 1, James Murray. 2, Donald MacPhee. 3, Scott Drummond. 4, Morna Morrison. 5, Andrew Hays. Strathspey and Reel B: 1, Duncan MacLeod. 2, Scott Drummond. 3, Scott Drummond. 4, Donald MacPhee. 5, James Murray. 6, Alasdair Gillies.

Pupils refuse to let Patten take gloss off GCSE results

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS and pupils yesterday defended the achievements of this year's GCSE candidates against claims by John Patten, the education secretary, that standards were slipping.

The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations said Mr Patten's response to a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate was "unforgivable" and would demoralise children and teachers at the beginning of the school year. "Only a matter of months ago, John Patten told parents the HMI was not reliable and would be disbanded," a spokeswoman said. "Now he has taken the HMI report and accepted what it says. We would expect

any areas of concern to be looked into, but this should have been done quietly before making a statement."

George Turnbull, for the Southern Examining Group, said that one examinee had already asked whether his grades were to be reduced. "The announcement is bound to worry a lot of students unnecessarily. We have done everything the government has asked, and we are convinced that standards have been maintained."

However, the cream of this year's examinees were resolute in the face of Mr Patten's criticisms. Alexander Mitchell, a pupil at Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, who was awarded eleven A grades, said that the education secretary's timing was insensitive. "He's spoiling it when GCSEs are still fresh in people's minds. You spend the whole summer waiting for results and then a few days after they arrive you're told they weren't up to much," he said. "It's slightly irritating because, with coursework, you do have to work hard over the whole two years. You can't coast and have to raise your game the whole time."

Simon Eade, who obtained ten A grades, was sure that GCSE was as hard as the old O level. "I'm not too pleased. I've spent two years working for a qualification which John Patten doesn't seem to think is worth much." But he said Mr Patten's remarks would not deter him from A levels in English, History, French and Latin, and application for Oxford or Cambridge.

Rowland Brown, head teacher of the school, which was the top state school in last week's Times A-level survey, said his experience on the Oxford University examination board did not suggest a decline. "The GCSE puts more pressure on pupils than O levels did and in our view it has not diluted standards. People are putting in a more sustained effort to do well across the two-year period in which work counts for marks." Pupils were better motivated than they had been before the examination was introduced in 1988.

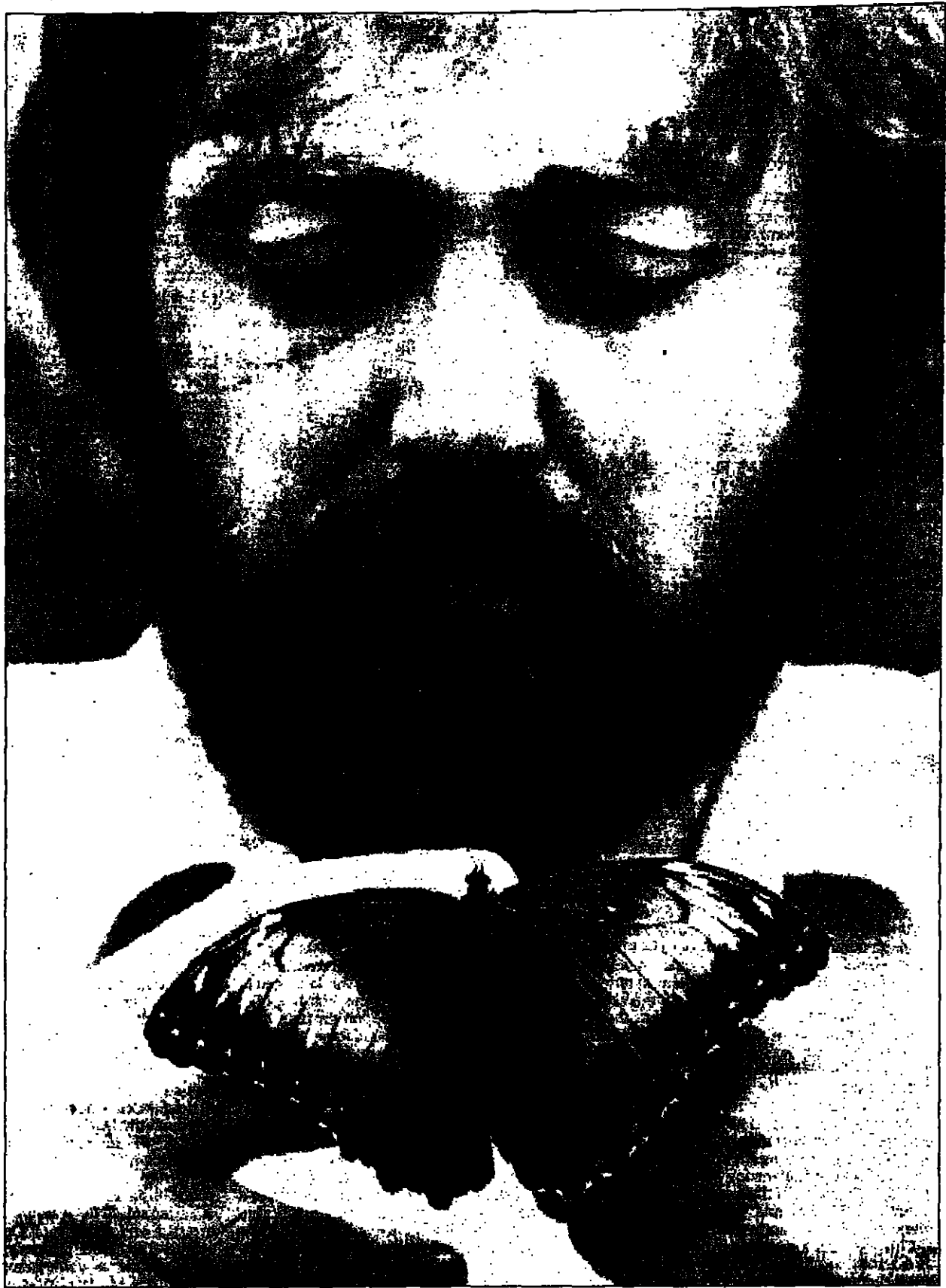
Debate revived, page 2

EC climbs down on passports

Continued from page 1

borderers. EC citizens should be free of actual controls. "The problem is how to identify EC citizens. If the Community passport does that, then maybe that's not a control," he said, suggesting that EC citizens could simply walk through Heathrow or Dover waving the purple EC passports at officials. Asked whether that meant non-EC citizens would be subject to regular controls, Herr Bangemann said: "That's a consequence, yes." He could picture flights from countries where illegal immigration is a problem being heavily monitored while passengers from other destinations would go relatively unchecked.

"We should find practical measures to make sure that checks at borders will be removed at least on a regular basis without Britain being subject to the dangers of illegal immigration," he said. "These will have to be thrashed out over the next few weeks." He added that he and Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, hoped to reach a practical solution. "My feeling after our meeting (at Lancaster House on Tuesday) is that we can find a pragmatic solution."



Gareth Welsh with his rare butterfly: "I've travelled the length of the Amazon looking for something like this"

A wing of beauty is a joy for 10 weeks

A RARE and spectacular butterfly, hatched on a lump of rotten banana in Stockton, Cleveland, has caused a flutter in the lepidoptera world (Ronald Fox writes). The *Morpho peleides* which emerged this week to flash a six-inch spread of wings has stunned Gareth Welsh, director of Butterfly World. The butterfly, a native of Belize, normally has wings of electric blue. The Stockton aberration has black wings with a white border and blue stripe — in collectors' terms, the equivalent of a postage stamp without

the Queen's head printed on it. "As a rarity it would make a penny black seem commonplace," Mr Welsh said. The butterfly hatched on Tuesday and an offer of £3,800 has already been turned down from a collector who would have immediately pinned the insect in prime condition to a display board. "We are trying to breed from it," Mr Welsh said. "The butterfly has a ten-week normal life span but when it has mated a couple of times its wings become ragged and it will be worth nothing. At the moment it is

very impressive and we are keeping a very close eye on it." Light-fingered collectors have already caused problems at Butterfly World, where about 2,000 butterflies in 60 or 70 species fly about and land on visitors, but unscrupulous collectors have been slipping them into their pockets. Now eight security cameras have been installed to guard against poachers. But even that is not enough to convince Mr Welsh that the spectacular *Morpho* is safe — he takes it home each night.

Serbs yield heavy gun sites to UN

Continued from page 1

ers will be posted at each artillery position.

Colonel Komnen Zarkovic, a spokesman for Serbian forces, said that UN observers could have access to the batteries grouped at 11 sites in the hills which command the city. But he said UN monitoring would not prevent the guns, which have hammered Sarajevo's 380,000 citizens for five months, being used in future fighting.

Marrack Goulding, head of UN peacekeeping operations, is expected in Sarajevo today to begin laying the groundwork for a "greatly expanded command centre of UN forces in Sarajevo", according to Fred Eckhard, the UN spokesman there.

The Unprofor official said: "We will depend on Dr Karadzic to tell us how many guns they have. But once the monitors are in position, we will know if there are undeclared sites if guns are fired from unsupervised locations. This is what happened after the airport agreement."

Meanwhile, Nato ambassadors met yesterday in special session to endorse the decision by individual members to send troops to Bosnia to escort relief convoys.

Consultations will now follow between Nato, the UN and the nine-nation Western European Union (WEU) on the command structure for the force. The troops, up to 6,000, will be deployed with Unprofor rather than act as a separate force.

The WEU has promised 5,000 troops and the 1,600-strong Unprofor is expected to be increased to about 8,000 soldiers.

The security council plans to give greater powers to peacekeeping troops in Bosnia following the report by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the former Polish prime minister, in which he described the increasing frustration of UN troops at the limitations imposed on them to maintain neutrality.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, is expected to recommend sending more peacekeeping troops to the region at the end of this week. Mr Mazowiecki, the UN special rapporteur, has also called for peacekeeping troops to be used to prevent widespread human rights abuses, but the council is unlikely to approve the recommendation.

Owen warning, page 7
Letters, page 11

Iraq jails British cyclist for ten years

Continued from page 1

dent Saddam Hussein set up a clandestine procurement network in Germany and Switzerland led by a diplomat assigned to Iraq's embassy in Bonn. Baghdad also had a number of skilled Western-trained nuclear scientists.

Signor Zifferero, deputy director of the International Atomic Energy Agency assigned by the UN security council to oversee the dismantling of Iraq's nuclear capability, told reporters yesterday: "We are completing our investigation of the programme and find no evidence of the programme being continued." He added that Iraq's decision to halt nuclear work after the war was a factor in his declaration that the programme was finished. "They have stated many times to us that they have decided at the



Wainwright: arrested for illegal entry

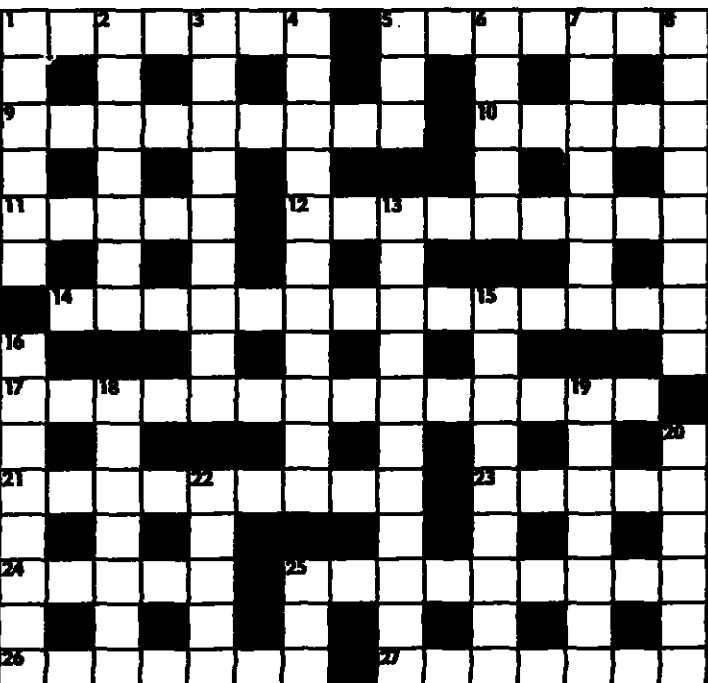
higher political level to stop these activities and say [they have] neutralised equipment and material which have been involved in this activity. This we have verified."

America, Britain and France have long been suspicious of Iraq's denials that it was trying to develop weapons, and damning information was provided by a top Iraqi scientist who defected. There were also fears after the collapse of the Soviet Union that Iraq might try to buy specialists and technology for its covert nuclear programme. Iraq, along with Libya, Algeria, Egypt, India and North Korea was reported by Western intelligence sources to have been flirting with possible recruits.

In the Gulf war, Iraq's nuclear sites were the targets of massive air raids. Yesterday, the UN inspector said they had stripped Iraq of its ability to develop a nuclear device using electromagnetic isotope separation. They had been scouring the country in the belief that Iraq might be concealing centrifuges

Jordan rift, page 6

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,014



- ACROSS**
- 1 Play to make rings around the novices (7).
 - 5 "Is now the two hours" of our stage" (R. and J.) (7).
 - 9 A listening device for soldiers covering a hill (9).
 - 10 Home for this bird is by the railway (5).
 - 11 Old gentleman housed in a pleasant area (5).
 - 12 Raw materials used to make pottery (9).
 - 14 Small is better for training by second teacher (6-3).
 - 17 One of a pair manipulated by Madame Defarge (8-6).
 - 21 Sensible things men hope an arrangement can be made for (9).
 - 23 The bird to show a yellow streak (5).
 - 24 A picture that's out of a periodical (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Sally pushing forward (6).
 - 2 Word of praise for the choir (7).
 - 3 Obtain a University grant for a car (9).
 - 4 Leave standing miles from home? (11).
 - 5 Rocky position of thespian with no billing (3).
 - 6 Mount Dumas created for a soldier (5).
 - 7 As a follower of Wells, one loses nothing by being very advanced (7).
 - 8 Kid girl she's an exotic lady (8).
 - 13 The positioning of players at the bridge table? (11).
 - 15 Peg put on drill area to get the right angles (3-6).
 - 16 Missing out on exercise (8).
 - 18 Composer denying no man is an island (7).
 - 19 Information sheet from a small box for example (7).
 - 20 Shelter in filthy dwelling when it's raining and snowing (6).
 - 22 Marguerite has a neat look (5).
 - 25 24 revealed in follow-up (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,013

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Concise Crossword, page 11
Life & Times section

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- EPICENE**
a. Pertaining to both sexes
b. Of an epic
c. Suggestive
- REFRIGERATOR**
a. A refrigeratory for boys
b. An index
c. A carboxylic vitae
- GLOPPEN**
a. An idiot
b. To surprise
c. A Nordic fairy
- RAIDAR**
a. Push early form of RADAR
b. A Toll collector
c. Mastin fast day

Answers on page 12

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0635 401 followed by the appropriate code.

C London & SE	731
M-ways/roads M6-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-A4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
Midlands	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
North-east England	744
Scotland	745
Northern Ireland	746

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Clue: A PS/2 is the cutting edge (3.3).

Answer: Top Saw.

IBM

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MIDDAY: 1-thunder; 2-drizzle; 3-sunny; 4-sunny; 5-sunny; 6-sunny; 7-sunny; 8-sunny; 9-sunny; 10-sunny; 11-sunny; 12-sunny.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Humidity	Pressure
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	
Abertawe	10.3	1.6	81	cloudy	

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 17C (65F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.17in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.2hr.

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	704
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	705
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	706
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	707
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	708
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	709
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	710
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	711
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Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	716
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	717
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	718
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	719
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	720
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	721
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	722
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	723
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	724
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	725
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	726
Wiltshire, Dorset, Dorset	727

Weatherall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

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Reserves depleted in support for sterling

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE battered pound held its ground easily against the mark yesterday, in spite of government figures that showed much heavier Bank of England support for sterling in August than the City had suspected.

The Treasury said official foreign exchange and gold reserves, regarded as the best published pointer to intervention, fell by an underlying \$1.28 billion last month, after an \$86 million drop in July. The August decline was the biggest since the \$2.89 billion drop in October 1989, when Nigel Lawson resigned as Chancellor.

The foreign exchange markets were in an altogether calmer mood. The pound, less than a penny from its absolute floor of

DM2.7780 in the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), appeared to come under no new pressure, in spite of further dollar weakness.

On Tuesday, currency analysts had been concerned that the dollar's tumble to a new historic low of DM1.3895 threatened to create fresh strain in the ERM. Yesterday, the dollar's dip to a fresh low of DM1.3860 failed to upset the market. By midday in New York, the dollar was back around DM1.3900, after some early short-covering ahead of the long Labour day weekend.

Fear of central bank action to prevent the dollar falling too fast helped underpin the currency. But bearishness about the economy was fuelled by figures that showed orders to American factories down 1.1 per cent in July, the worst decline in seven months. In June, they rose 2.4 per cent. At

the official 4pm London close, the pound stood at \$2.0036, below its best, but more than a quarter of a cent firmer than its previous finish. Against the mark, it was almost unchanged at DM2.7860 and up 0.1 at 92.2 on its trade-weighted index. Three-month money market rates eased to just below 10.5 per cent, while one-month rates were indicating an unchanged 10 per cent, the same as the base rate.

Although the Bank of England's intervention was double what the City had expected for August, the Treasury and analysts are becoming increasingly confident that reserves, at \$44.45 billion, will be adequate to meet any pressure likely before the French referendum on Maastricht. The most serious tests are likely before September 11, the date of the last permitted opinion poll. David Simmonds, currency analyst at

Midland Montagu, said the pound was "probably past the worst", even though he expects currency market scares and rumours to continue. Although Whitehall made clear yesterday that the Maastricht treaty will be dead from a British point of view, if France rejects it, governments are not expected to unveil contingency plans until after the French vote is known.

European Community finance ministers, who meet in Bath at the weekend, are likely to reinforce their commitment not to realign the ERM currencies and seek other ways to reduce tension.

The Bundesbank council's meeting today is expected to leave German interest rates unchanged. Raimut Jochimsen, a council member, said the recessionary trend in Germany was growing stronger, but there has been no self-fuelling downturn. He said

the Bundesbank had to pursue tight monetary policies because of strong growth in money supply.

But Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW), one of Germany's leading economic institutes, yesterday called on the Bundesbank to cut interest rates immediately to ward off recession. DIW said an easing would pave the way for lower interest rates in Europe and on the American bond market. It said that Bundesbank moves to restrict lending for corporate investment would reduce tax revenues and increase government borrowing.

Data on west Germany's gross domestic product, due today, are expected to show a decline of 1 per cent in the second quarter, after a 2 per cent increase in the first.

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

TIPPED



Sarah Hogg is a long-shot, but still a candidate to be the Bank of England's next Governor, says Jon Ashworth
Page 19

PROTECTION

Leading accountancy firms are calling on the American government to protect them from rising litigation
Page 16

RIDING HIGH



Unipart is enjoying soaring profits, despite ignoring City advice to abandon manufacturing
Page 17

GROUNDWORK

Rosyth Royal Dockyard has proposed radical cost-cutting plans in preparation for privatisation
Page 17

ACCOUNTANCY



Accountants need more than a high-profile public relations expert to improve their image, argues Robert Bruce
Page 21

THE POUND

US dollar 2.0036 (+0.0034)
German mark 2.7860 (+0.0001)
Exchange index 92.2 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1682.8 (+12.8)
FT-SE 100 2130.0 (+14.6)
New York Dow Jones 3272.20 (+5.94)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17587.72 (-152.34)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10%-10.5%
3-month eligible bills: 10-9.5%
US: Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 5.25%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.14-3.12%
30-year bonds: 8.8%-8.6%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£/\$ 2.0036 \$/£ 0.5000
£/DM 2.7860 DM/£ 0.3590
£/Sfr 2.4848 Sfr/£ 0.4022
£/¥ 160.48 ¥/£ 0.0062
£/₹ 47.50 ₹/£ 0.0211
£/₪ 16.66 ₪/£ 0.0601
£/₹ 16.66 ₹/£ 0.0211
£/₪ 16.66 ₪/£ 0.0601
£/₹ 16.66 ₹/£ 0.0211
£/₪ 16.66 ₪/£ 0.0601
London Forex market close

GOLD

London: New York
Gold \$338.40 \$340.45
Close \$338.40 \$339.30
\$169.00-169.50
New York: \$339.15-339.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.20/bbl (\$20.10)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.8 July (1987=100)
* denotes midday trading price

Nuclear chief rebukes watchdog

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE chief executive of Nuclear Electric condemned a call by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity watchdog, to accelerate the phasing out of the £1.3 billion nuclear levy. Dr Bob Hawley called Professor Littlechild's remarks "an unjustified and untimely interference in our commercial affairs in respect of a matter of public concern and political sensitivity".

In a letter to Professor Littlechild, he said: "I object to you proposing to give Nuclear Electric a sharper incentive to cut costs. We already have a sharp incentive." He said the company had stated that it planned to make an operating profit before the levy by 1995. "You know full well that I do not need your incentive, nor do I believe it your place to give it to me."

Professor Littlechild, director general of the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), revealed his proposals for a faster reduction in the levy at a meeting with the Energy Intensive Users Group yesterday, despite an attempt by Dr Hawley to force him to withdraw them. His proposals follow a campaign against the levy from consumers, large electricity customers, electricity companies, trade unions and MPs. The levy this year and last amounted to 11 per cent on every electricity bill.

The levy directly subsidises producers of power from renewable sources in England and Wales. Nuclear Electric receives 97 per cent of it, 2 per cent goes to British Nuclear Fuels and the rest to others, including wind and wave-power generators. It is due to end in 1998. Nuclear Electric produces 19 per cent of the electricity consumed in England and Wales and electricity suppliers are obliged to buy its output, protecting it from competition from cheaper gas and coal plants. Large electricity users have recently stepped up their demands for a cut in the subsidy, saying that without lower electricity prices they will be uncompetitive.

Professor Littlechild is making two suggestions to Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, who must approve any change in levy regulation. Professor Littlechild sets the nuclear levy, though he does not regulate the nuclear industry. He recommends that the levy rate be fixed in advance.

instead of being revised each year to produce a given amount of revenue. He also proposes reducing the levy faster than envisaged, to give Nuclear Electric "a sharper incentive to improve efficiency and cut costs".

Dr Hawley, who was recruited by Nuclear Electric from NEI, a Rolls-Royce subsidiary, in May, said Professor Littlechild's proposals could increase the public sector borrowing requirement.

Professor Littlechild said: "An 11 per cent levy on electricity costs is a significant burden on all customers. In a fully competitive market, customers would not have to pay the higher costs of nuclear electricity. A reduction in the levy would, therefore, be a practical and defensible way of responding to concerns from larger users. It would also be a tangible way of reassuring domestic customers that privatisation has been in their interest."

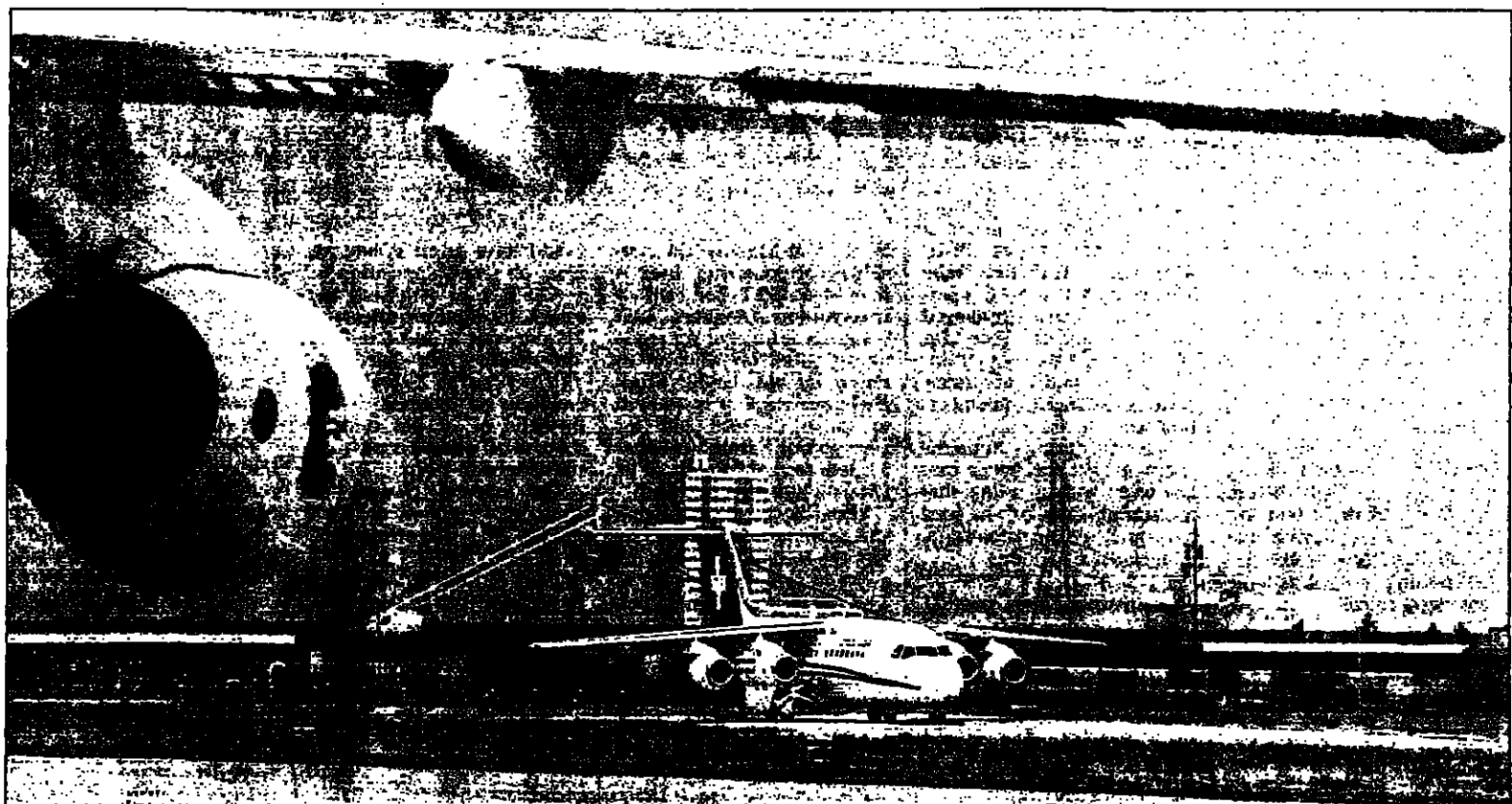
Dr Hawley gave warning that if the customer did not pay the subsidies, "they will have to be met by the taxpayer". Professor Littlechild also proposed to scrutinise provisions built into the levy for decommissioning nuclear power stations. Dr Hawley said these costs were "scrutinised exhaustively" by independent accountants in the run up to the vesting of the industry.

Colin Webster, commercial director of National Power, Britain's largest power generator, said: "We have always wished to see the levy disappear as it is a distortion in the price of electricity."

Comment, page 19



Littlechild: cut levy faster



Slow to take off: after five years in operation, London City airport has still to reach its break-even point of 400,000 passengers a year

Mowlem seeks buyer for City airport stake

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

JOHN Mowlem, the construction group, is searching for a buyer for part of its 90 per cent stake in the loss-making London City Airport.

The company says it is looking for an offer that would value the airport at "substantially more than £50 million" and up to £80 million, but analysts in the City doubt it will be able to find a buyer at such a high price.

The airport is on the Mowlem balance sheet at £7 million after £13 million debts and a £33 million write-off in 1989.

Mowlem's investment so far totals £40 million, but it estimates its replacement cost at £50 million.

In its five years of operation, the airport has lost £18 million and is expected to lose at least £3 million this year. About 200,000 passengers will use the airport this year and the number is rising. But Roger Sainsbury, a Mowlem director, said it needs 400,000 a year to break even.

He said the company decided to look for a co-investor after receiving several expressions of interest. Speculation has centred on BAA, Britain's

privatised airport authority, its French and German equivalents, and European airlines. However, BAA said yesterday it would probably not be interested. A spokeswoman said the airport is very small in comparison with the rest of BAA's business, there might be regulatory problems and, as BAA owns Stansted, there would probably be competition problems.

Mr Sainsbury said Mowlem decided to look for co-investors because it felt it had reached an important turning point in the life of the five-year-old airport. A £5 mil-

lion runway extension was completed in April that allows the new range of turbo-prop aircraft as well as the British Aerospace 146 "whispering jets" to use the airport, making it more attractive. Road links to the airport have improved and the opening of Limehouse Link, the new fast road link from Tower Hill to the airport, next spring will make access easier.

By October, there will be seven airlines operating from London City and William Charnock, the airport's managing director, said it is in conversation with at least a

dozen new carriers that are considering new destinations from next spring.

Mowlem expects to retain a 50 per cent stake, but Mr Sainsbury said if there was a worthwhile offer "we would be minded to part with a significant amount". He emphasised that the company does not need to sell its stake either to raise money for the airport or to bolster Mowlem's balance sheet. He said most of the investment in the airport has already been made and "Mowlem has a strong balance sheet relative to other companies".

Institute's loss listing angers Direct Line

By SARA MCCONNELL

DIRECT Line Insurance, the general insurance arm of the Royal Bank of Scotland, yesterday threatened the Institute of Insurance Brokers with legal action after it included the company in a list of 17 insurers alleged to have collectively lost a large proportion of their free reserves (shareholders' funds) over the last two years.

This raised doubts about the companies' ability to pay claims, the institute said. Christopher McKee, a director of Direct Line, said the company was "extremely upset" to have been included in the list of companies. He said: "Our shareholders' funds in the last couple of years are up from £44 million in 1990 to £68.3 million in 1991, including a £24 million capital injection from the Royal Bank of Scotland." Management costs had been cut and Direct Line had grown rapidly by

selling directly to the public and charging lower premiums than its competitors.

Andrew Paddock, IIB director general said he was "bewildered" at Direct Line's objection. "We have done nothing wrong. We were referring to insurance companies collectively. Some will be better and some will be worse."

The IIB said yesterday it had analysed the first 17 out of 70 insurance companies and found that "in less than two years these insurers collectively have lost half their free reserves in spite of periodic injections of new capital — with some of them individually showing a much more serious decline."

The institute said investors could not rely on the fact that companies were authorised by the trade department as a guarantee of future claims paying ability.

Recession no party for small firms

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE recession is hitting small businesses hard, especially if you are smoking salmon or making party hats.

But there is hope for those that survive. The number of companies going into receivership or administration dropped sharply in August, compared with last year. Touche Ross, the accountant, said that insolvencies not only dropped by 30 per cent, but August was the seventh successive month in which there had been a decrease.

The trend is reflected in fewer insolvencies in the electrical and plumbing sectors, as well as in agriculture and manufacturing, but times are tougher in the motor trade and hotels and catering. Touche Ross's analysis shows that recessionary gloom seems to have affected the country's sense of humour. Company failures last month included a publisher of comics and a manufacturer of party

hats. A salmon smoking business also went under.

"Medium to larger size businesses appear to be surviving the present recessionary stages of the economic cycle better than many other commentators suggest," according to Touche Ross.

Appointments of administrators and receivers were higher in the Midlands than elsewhere in the country. Just under 20 per cent of all appointments in August were in the Midlands, compared with 16 per cent in the first eight months.

The figures for London and the South East show an 18 per cent decline so far this year but in Scotland appointments are 35 per cent up on last year.

In the first eight months of the year, the number of appointments dropped by 9 per cent to 3,519. If this trend continues, the overall number of receiverships and administrations should ease from 5,734 last year to about 5,200.

Of the big seven accounting firms,

Arthur Andersen seems to be holding its market share of appointments better than the rest — albeit at a lower level than the other six.

Touche Ross said that with the exception of Scottish banks, which had increased appointments, big clearing banks had made 16 per cent fewer appointments this year. Christopher Morris, Touche Ross's insolvency partner, said the banks would "inevitably have to bear the brunt of requests for additional working capital".

Mr Morris said: "I continue to have a very cautious optimism that the downward trends in receivership appointments will be maintained, so long as lenders do not lose their nerve about the ability of businesses to survive the recession."

Appointments made by the big four clearing banks fell sharply. However, Bank of Scotland, the Royal Bank of Scotland and TSB were much tougher.

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Unipart prospers despite City advice to quit production

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Neill, the chief executive of the Unipart car components group, has launched a scathing attack on City stockbrokers whom he says, advised him to abandon manufacturing.

Pre-tax profits at the Unipart Group of Companies rose 42 per cent to £9.5 million during the half to the end of June, on sales up 14.5 per cent to £334 million.

In a move that further confounds doubters, UGC is to build a plant in the West Midlands, producing flywheels, axle housings and shafts for Toyota and Honda.

"The results are the direct result of the decision we took

some years back to invest in the long-term development of our business," Mr Neill said. "We also attribute much of our growing strength to our decision to invest in manufacturing in Britain — a decision we took against the advice of the City stockbrokers who advised us to abandon manufacturing."

"With the Japanese motor manufacturers establishing a large and growing presence in this country, Britain is now one of the most attractive places in Europe for component makers to establish operations."

A UGC spokesman said the company had consulted "four or five" stockbrokers for advice before initiating its manufacturing investment. Most had been strongly against the proposals. The spokesman declined to say which firms were involved.

To fulfil orders from Toyota and Honda, both of which are in the pilot production phase at their new plants in Britain, Unipart is to establish a joint venture with Beams Industries, another former British Leyland subsidiary.

Advanced Engineering Sys-

tems manufacture components at Tipton, and will be 80 per cent owned by UGC, and 20 per cent by Beams. UGC will have the right to buy out its partner. AES will build up a workforce of 100 over the next three years.

Mr Neill said both Unipart Industries, UGC's manufacturing arm, and Unipart International, its all-makes parts business, had performed exceptionally well during the first half. Unipart Industries already produces exhausts, catalytic converters and fuel tanks.

The core distribution business, which manages the spare parts supplies of Rover, Jaguar and Land Rover, had been satisfactory.

UGC, which has 4,000 employees, was the subject of a management and employee buyout from Rover Group, now part of British Aerospace, in 1987.

Rover still holds 20 per cent of the company. City institutions have a further 38 per cent and the remaining shares, amounting to 42 per cent, are spread among managers and employees.

Ryan plan for Welsh mining jobs

A private coal-mining company has unveiled plans to bring jobs to an unemployment black spot in Wales. Ryan Mining is to reopen a Welsh valleys railway line and build a rail freight terminal in a £16 million move that could double its workforce to 600. The Neath Valley rail line will link the company's four private coal mines in the area to the British Rail network and the new terminal at Cwmwrach, west Glamorgan, is being supported by a £4 million grant from the Welsh Office.

Ryan's output from the Neath area, more than 100,000 tons a year, is currently moved by lorry. Ryan Mining is part of the Ryan Group, Britain's largest private-sector coal company.

Payout passed
Cussons Property reports an interim pre-tax profit of £437,000, but an attributable loss of £491,000. There is again no dividend.

Serco ahead
Serco's interim pre-tax profits rose from £2.48 million to £3.4 million. The dividend is 4.5p (3.9p).

Loss reduced
English & Overseas Properties' interim pre-tax loss was £438,000 (loss of £551,000). There is no dividend (0.5p).

Grafton rises
Grafton Group lifted interim pre-tax profits from £161.62 million to £181.85 million (£1.75 million). The dividend is 12.75p (12.5p).

Page slides
Interim pre-tax profits at Michael Page fell to £1.3 million (£2.08 million), but the dividend is held at 0.6p.

Profit warning
Cambridge Group has given warning that the year's profits will fall below last year's £15.02 million (£4.76 million).

Profit picture looks bright for SelecTV

By JON ASHWORTH

THE popularity of series such as *Lovely Joe* and *Birds of a Feather* is paying off for SelecTV, the independent television producer, which more than doubled profits last year. The launch of the new South of England ITV channel next year is expected to boost the company's fortunes further.

SelecTV has 15 per cent of Meridian Broadcasting, which holds the Channel 3 franchise for South and South East England. Apart from being a founder shareholder, SelecTV has an agreement to be the station's sole supplier of comedy and comedy/drama programmes.

Michael Buckley, chairman, said filming of the first

series under this agreement had begun and others were being prepared. "Shareholders should be aware that it will take some time for our shareholding in Meridian to produce any dividend income," he said. "There are substantial start-up costs and no advertising or programme revenue will be received by Meridian until 1993."

The stake in Meridian was paid for through a £5.6 million rights issue last year. SelecTV lifted pre-tax profits to £423,000 (£203,000) in the year to March 31. Turnover rose to £11.5 million (£7.3 million) and earnings per share to 0.36p (0.27p). There is no dividend (nil).

Johnston Press agrees deal

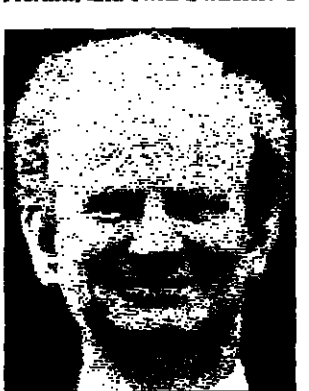
By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

JOHNSTON Press, the local newspaper publishing group, has agreed to pay £11.95 million for control of the TR Beckett chain of Sussex papers, and is raising £7.75 million of new money to finance the deal.

Among the vendors are Emap, with 37.1 per cent of the equity, and the Hale family, holders of 15.5 per cent.

Frederick Johnston, the Johnston Press chairman, unveiled the planned Beckett acquisition with news of pre-tax profits for the first half of 1992 surging 25 per cent from £3.88 million to £4.85 million and the interim dividend up from 2p to 2.25p a share. Beckett, which publish-

es seven paid-for and three free newspapers in Sussex, including the *Eastbourne Herald* and the *Worthing Herald*, and owns a wholesale



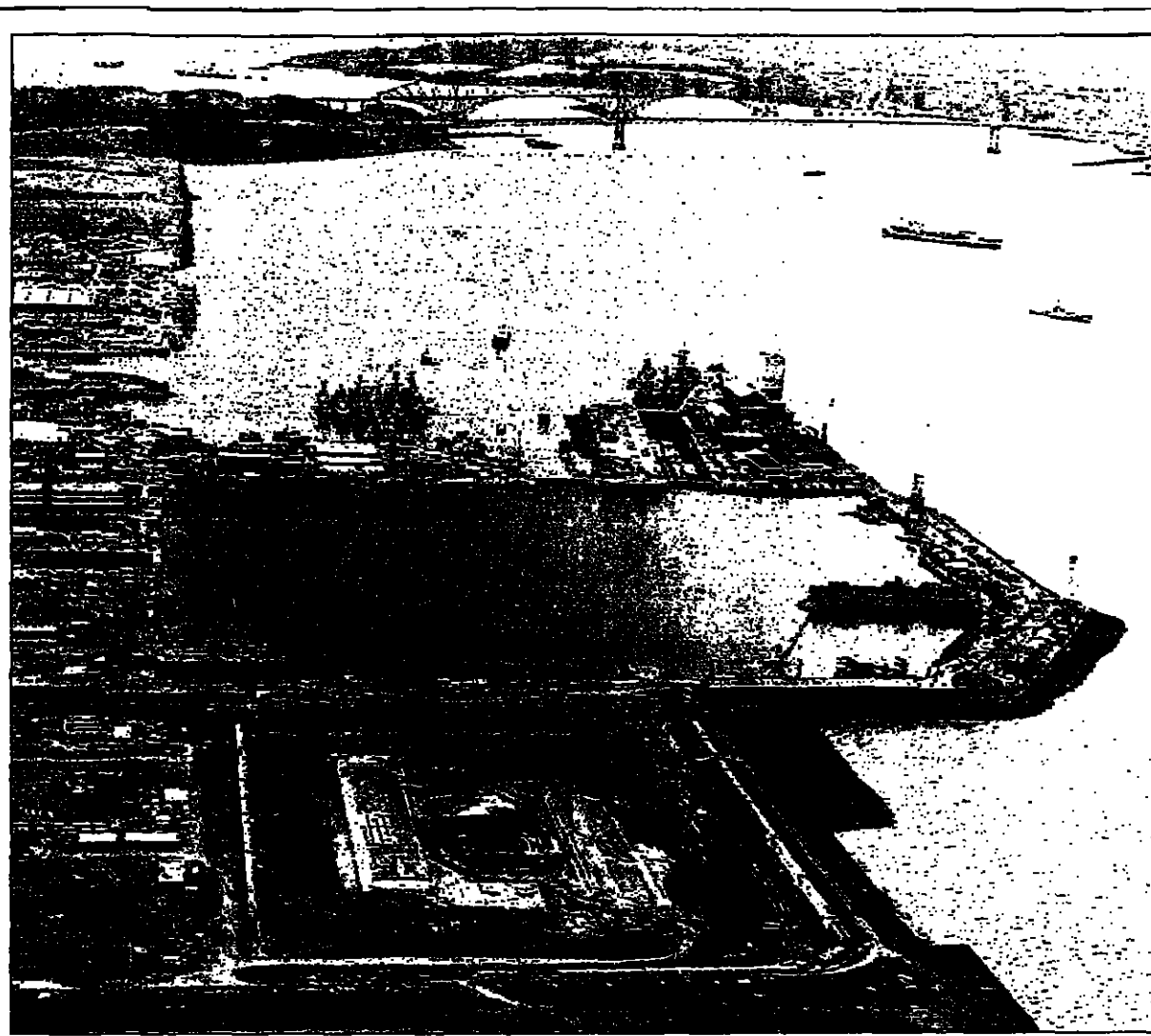
Johnston: raising cash

stationary business in Uckfield, has seen its profits slip from £1.52 million in 1989 to £1.02 million last year. The business should provide the group with a better geographical balance.

The purchase price comprises 1.08 million new shares which will be held by the vendors for at least six months after completion, £1.34 million in loan notes, and £7.07 million in cash, to be raised via a placing and offer of 2.5 million new shares.

Existing Johnston shareholders will be offered new shares at 310p apiece on the basis of one new share for every 10.7932 shares held.

Tempus, page 18



Black hole: millions have been spent on a dry dock (foreground) for Trident, but completion is in doubt

Rosyth gets shipshape for sell-off

The royal dockyard's managers have put forward a privatisation plan to save taxpayers money, reports Ross Tieman

THE cost of refurbishing warships at Rosyth Royal Dockyard could be cut by a third over the next 15 years under privatisation proposals put to the defence ministry by the yard's managers.

Babcock Thorn Ltd (BTL), which has run the yard on the Firth of Forth under contract since 1987, will press the ministry to concentrate work on nuclear-powered submarines there, while allowing Devonport, the other royal dockyard, to become the leading centre for work on surface ships.

Managers at Rosyth acknowledge that the ministry could save cash by concentrating all work at a single yard. However, they argue that if redundancy and benefit payments are counted, the taxpayer would lose.

The battle over the royal dockyard's future has intensified since the government called last month for ideas on how they might best be privatised. At stake are

4,000 jobs at Rosyth and a similar number at Devonport, which is run under contract by DML, a consortium formed by the yard's incumbent managers.

The debate is complicated by the political sensitivity of any decision over work on nuclear-powered submarines. The ministry has already spent £120 million on developing a facility at Rosyth for refitting Trident ballistic missile submarines.

BTL directors say that until a decision is taken on whether the facility is to be completed, it is impossible to assess the prospects of either Rosyth or Devonport, and hence their prices. Would-be buyers also need to know how the ministry plans to retain effective con-

trol of nuclear facilities. Refits of existing nuclear boats are carried out at both yards. However, the defence ministry decided that introduction of the far larger Trident vessels required a new facility. It has extended the Rosyth yard and dug a crater measuring 550 ft by 500 ft, and 90 ft deep.

Contractors have begun to build the foundations of two dry docks. In an effort to reduce the costs, and hence secure completion of the facility, BTL has produced an alternative scheme for finishing it.

Instead of one huge shed containing all facilities, the company proposes several free-standing buildings. It has offered to complete the docks, in partnership with

an unnamed construction group, for a guaranteed price of £267 million. That is less than half of the sum envisaged by the ministry.

By common consent, privatisation of the yards' management has benefited both the ministry, through cost savings, and the local communities, by raising wages and saving jobs.

To maintain the workforce when annual income from refurbishment work has remained constant at about £160 million, Rosyth has offered surplus capacity to other users — winning, for example, a £20 million contract to refurbish London Underground trains.

Such projects now account for about a fifth of the yard's turnover. But it is hard to envisage a future that does not involve refitting warships. A two-year contract to refurbish the yard's latest arrival, the nuclear submarine HMS Sovereign, is worth £120 million.

Bowater makes 18% gain

By COLIN CAMPBELL

BOWATER, the packaging and engineering group, is weathering the recession with interim pre-tax profits 18.6 per cent higher at £62.4 million. But the company said the outlook for the second half remains uncertain.

Norman Ireland, chairman, and David Lyon, chief executive, said cost efficiencies remain an underlying task for all employees, but further progress is expected from North American operations, and Australasia is looking for recovery. Mr Ireland said: "We can only remain hopeful for Europe that a slow return to growth will start to emerge in the last quarter."

Bowater bought DRG Packaging and Cope Allman Packaging this year and raised £333.5 million via a rights issue. Mr Lyon said the two acquired businesses have been bedded down well and contributed £117 million to sales, though the period of digestion and absorption will probably take another year. He does not rule out further acquisitions.

The interim dividend rises from 8.93p to 9.7p. In response to shareholders' suggestions, Bowater will split its shares from £1 to 50p par value from October. Yesterday, the shares rose 14p to 739p.

Mr Lyon said health and personal products now account for 23 per cent of total sales.

Tempus, page 18

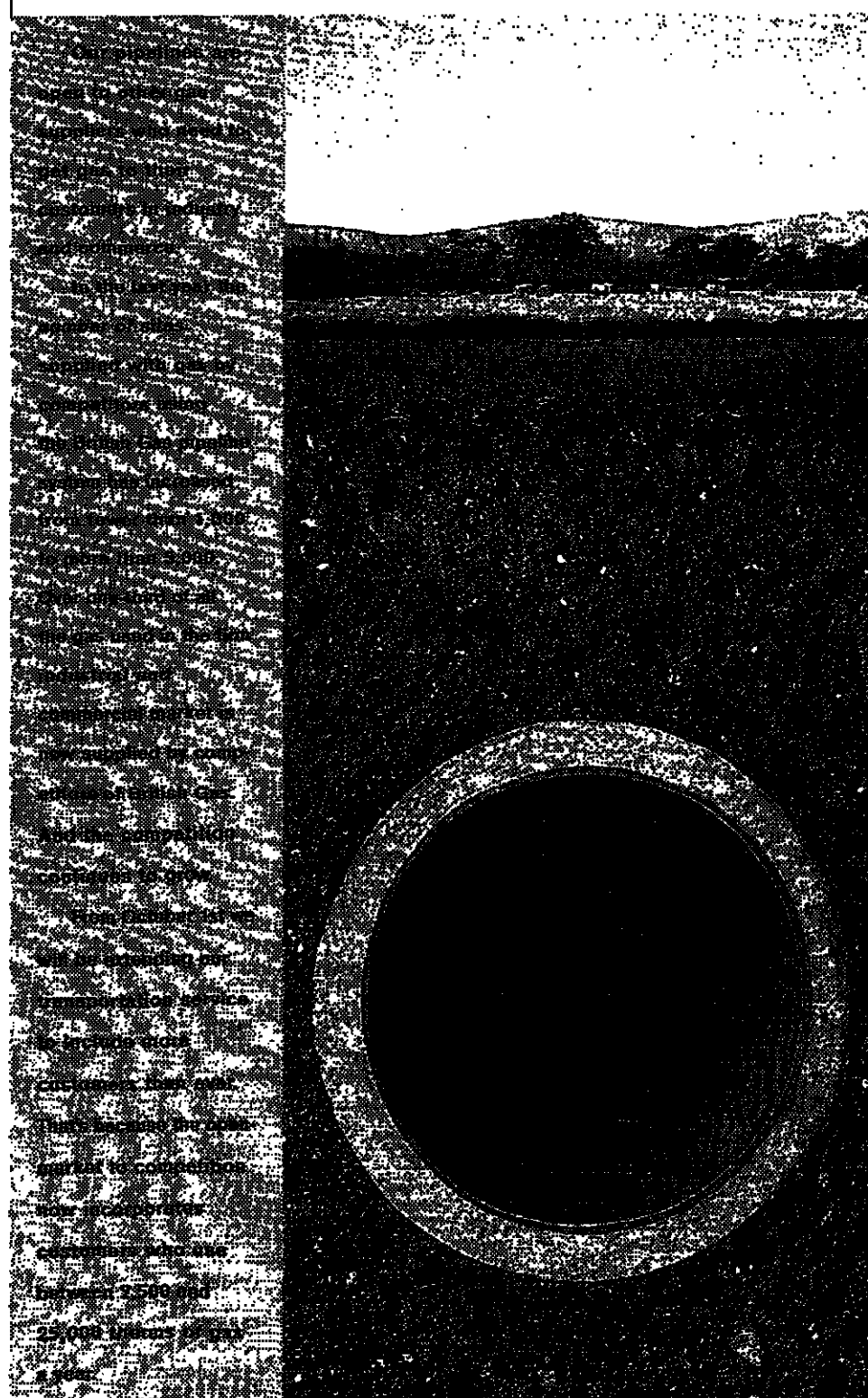
Hartwell lifts Trimoco bid

By OUR CITY STAFF

HARTWELL, a motor dealer owned by the Saudi Arabian Jemad Group, increased its bid for Trimoco, a rival dealer, from £25.9 million to £29.6 million. The deadline for the bid has been extended to September 15.

Hartwell is offering 20p in cash for each Trimoco share and £200 in cash for every £100-worth of Trimoco's 11.5 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock. That represents a premium of 14.3 per cent over the Trimoco share price when the bid was announced on August 4. Trimoco shares rose 1p to 20½ yesterday.

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STOCK CHANGES

RISES:		
Cable Wireless	511p (+11p)	
BOC	822p (+12p)	
Bowater	739p (+14p)	
Diploma	285p (+14p)	
Glaxo	718p (+12p)	
Liberty Life	640p (+11p)	
Airtours	187p (+14p)	
Euro Disney	805p (+52p)	
FALLS:		
Bulmer (HP)	334p (-15p)	
Campden	313p (-18p)	

SKF 'B'	825p (-12½p)
Rank Org	477p (-13p)
Radiant Metal	80p (-10p)
Lon Int	183p (-11p)
Tilbury Douglas	413p (-10p)
Tarmac	58p (-9p)
Wells Blake	265p (-10p)
Battersea	128p (-10p)
Elec Data Prc	380p (-18p)
Br Bldg & Eng	380p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 20

THE TIMES

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GOVERNMENT securities clawed back some of last week's losses helped by a steeper pound and a softer short-term interest rates. Prices at the longer end of the market picked up stock in the belief that the pound's recent slide had come to an end. On the futures market the Long Gilt rose £1/16 to 95 1/16. In longs, Treasury 9 per cent to 2008 climbed £1/16 to 97 7/8, while the shorter Exchequer 10½ per cent 1997 rose 17 ticks to £102 1/8.

Mentor Corporation
Santa Barbara, California, 1992
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1992	High	Low	Stock	Price	±	Int	Ch
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
100%	100%	100%	Each 15% 1992	100%	13.46
100%	100%	100%	Each 15% 1993	100%	13.46
100%	100%	100%	Each 15% 1994	100%	13.46
100%	100%	100%	Each 15% 1995	100%	13.46
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100%	100%	100%	Each 15% 2058	100%	13.46

TEMPUS

Johnston Press

TO DATE Johnston Press has scarcely put a foot wrong in its short life as a quoted company, and its planned acquisition of the Sussex newspaper publisher TR Beckett could well prove another masterstroke.

At just under £12 million, the price being paid may look on the full side, but Beckett is such a natural fit and so reminiscent of past acquisitions, that Johnston should have little difficulty in finding

No room for complacency: David Lyon, chief executive of Bowater

Yesterday's interims leave Invergordon on course for a rise from £32.2 million to £35.5 million in 1992 and a rise in earnings from 16.8p to 18.4p a share, putting the company on a multiple of 16.14 times earnings. The dividend is forecast to rise from 6.5p to 7.3p for the year.

Hold for the seemingly inevitable bid.

Invergordon

INVERGORDON Distillers, the besieged Scotch whisky group, turned in a strong set of results for the half year to end-June but it remains to be seen whether it makes it to the year end as an independent company. Whyte & Mackay, now owned by Amer-

STOCK MARKET

them to various clients at 318½ p, a hefty discount of 8.5 per cent to the ruling market price. The seller is believed to have been Gartmore Investment Management. Speculation in the marketplace suggests that Gartmore may have disposed of its entire holding in Enterprise, but this could not be confirmed. It was

Trimoco, the motor distributor, firmed 1p to 20½p after Hartwell increased its offer to almost £30 million. Hartwell claims to have acceptances from 40 per cent of shareholders.

MICHAEL CLARK

Trimoco, the motor distributor, firmed 1p to 20½p after Hartwell increased its offer to almost £30 million. Hartwell claims to have acceptances from 40 per cent of shareholders.

MICHAEL CLARK

CURRENCY MARKETS				
Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 92.2 (day's range 92.2).				
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
M/s Rate for Sept 2	3.1369-3.1416	3.1369-3.1405	1 month	3 months
London	57.37-57.43	57.37-57.43	1 1/2 yrs	1 1/2 yrs
Brussels	57.37-57.43	57.37-57.43	2 yrs	2 yrs
Copenhagen	10.7880-10.8110	10.7880-10.8040	3 yrs	3 yrs
Dublin	1.0354-1.0379	1.0354-1.0372	4 yrs	4 yrs
Frankfurt	2.7840-2.7899	2.7844-2.7879	5 yrs	5 yrs
Hamburg	245.90-246.18	245.90-246.18	6 yrs	6 yrs
Madrid	180.80-181.40	180.80-181.20	7 yrs	7 yrs
Milan	212.60-213.10	212.60-213.00	8 yrs	8 yrs
Monaco	2.594-2.604	2.594-2.604	9 yrs	9 yrs
New York	2.0025-2.0035	2.0025-2.0035	10 yrs	10 yrs
Oslo	11.0230-11.0360	11.0230-11.0400	11 yrs	11 yrs
Paris	2.4920-2.4940	2.4920-2.4940	12 yrs	12 yrs
Portugal	10.1800-10.2090	10.1800-10.1960	13 yrs	13 yrs
Tokyo	245.90-246.18	245.90-246.18	14 yrs	14 yrs
Zurich	180.80-181.40	180.80-181.20	15 yrs	15 yrs
Source: Data	2.7840-2.7899	2.7844-2.7879	16 yrs	16 yrs
			Premium + pr.	Discount - ds
OTHER STERLING		DOLLAR SPOT RATES		
Argentina peso*	1.9855-1.9886	Australia	1.3910-1.3920	

Bahrain dollar	0.7505-0.7595	Belgium (Com)	28.677-28.715
Brazil cruzeiro	10.944-10.994.2	Canada	1.1956-1.1964
Cyprus pound	0.805-0.815	Denmark	5.2165-5.2175
Hong Kong dollar	7.6525-7.7325	France	4.7350-4.7360
Circulating dollar	9.421-9.471	Germany	7.380-7.390
Finland mark	15.4710-15.4782	France	7.7380-7.7420
India rupee	1.371-1.371.9	Italy	1.567-1.567.5
Kuwait dinar	0.570-0.583	Japan	122.05-123.00
Malaysia ringgit	4.9849-4.9895	Japan	122.05-123.00
New Zealand dollar	3.7039-3.7127	Netherlands	1.5650-1.565
Saudi Arabian riyal	4.7464-4.7571	Norway	5.4980-5.5030
Singapore dollar	3.1813-3.1915	Portugal	211.50-212.10
S Africa rand (fin)	3.7371-3.75150	Spain	1.9251-1.9335
S Africa rand (ind)	3.4669-3.4738	Singapore	90.20-90.30
S A Rand (tourist)	3.4741-3.485	Switzerland	5.2582-5.2595
Barrage Bank GTS - Lloyds Bank		Switzerland	1.2358-1.2368

MONEY RATES (%)						
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10	Finance Hire 10%					
Discount Market Lender Overnight high	Low 9%	Week End 9%				
Treasury Bills (Osbony: 2 month 9%, 3 month 9%, Sell: 2 month 9%, 3 month 9%)						
Prime Bank Bills (Dial):	1 mth 9%	2 mth 9%	3 mth 10%	6 mth 10%	12 mth 10%	
Prime Bank CDs:	90-99%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	
Interbank:	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	
Overnight open 9%, close 15						
Local Authority Depos:	90%	N/A	10%	10%	10%	10%
Sterling CDs:	90%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%
Dollar CDs:	3.31-3.29	10%	3.31-3.29	3.40-3.37	3.39-3.35	
Fixed Rate:	10%-9%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	
Banking Society CDs:	10%-9%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	

ECU's: Fixed Rate Sterling Open Finance, Make-up day: August 28, 1992 Agreed rate Sept 21, 1992 Oct 25, 1992 Scheme H 11.38%, Scheme U 11%; 11.60%, Reference rate August 1, 1992 to August 28, 1992 Scheme FV 10.70%, S 10.70%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)						
Currency	3 mth	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar	7-7.25	7-7.25	3-3.75	3-3.75	3-3.75	3-3.75
Deutschmark	9-9.75	9-9.75	9-9.75	9-9.75	9-9.75	9-9.75
French Franc	10-10.75	10-10.75	10-10.75	10-10.75	10-10.75	10-10.75
Swiss Franc	8-7.75	7-7.75	7-7.75	7-7.75	7-7.75	7-7.75
Yen:	4-4.75	4-4.75	4-4.75	4-4.75	4-4.75	4-4.75

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)	
Bullion: Open \$340.70-341.10	Close \$338.80-339.30
High: \$341.25-341.75	

Sovereigns: Old \$79.50-80.50 (£40.00-41.00) **New** \$79.75-81.75 (£40.25-41.25)

Challenging the nuclear subsidy

Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, is having a hard time. He has been upstaged by PowerGen, which has been lobbying the trade department for a scheme for cheaper electricity for big users while the regulator was telling them he could do nothing about it. When Professor Littlechild finally screwed up his courage and decided to make a public call for the 11 per cent nuclear levy on electricity prices to be reduced early, Nuclear Electric tried to muzzle him in advance, then damned him for exceeding his brief. The target is, however, correct.

The coal industry is being martyred with two swords. Subsidy and the protection of long-term contracts are being removed rapidly. The mines must also bear the brunt of the drive to competition at all costs, which will deliver a raft of uneconomic gas-fired power stations at the expense of coal. Through all this, nuclear power remains protected. Electricity consumers have to subsidise what are principally strategic national investments, which had little to do with electricity economics, at £1.3 billion a year. Ordinary consumers would have to pay this bill anyway, either through electricity charges or taxation. Industry's competitiveness is being hurt badly. Big electricity users might be forced out of power-intensive products that can be supplied by continental rivals, also reducing electricity demand.

This poses a tricky dilemma for Professor Littlechild, as he clearly acknowledges. The Treasury would not want any early and substantial general cut in the levy, since this would raise public spending via external funding for Nuclear Electric. PowerGen's proposed remedies, developed in cahoots with the CBI, would cost far less, but would not bring direct benefit to residential consumers. One option is a cap on the cash levy payable by any customer, reducing the average and, more particularly, the marginal cost for big users. This might remove competitive burdens for less than £100 million. PowerGen's preferred alternative is allowing Nuclear Electric to sell some cheap supplies through the likes of PowerGen and National Power, who could then offer more attractive packages of base-load and peak power to big users. This might even help coal by leaving open more long-term contracts for the franchise market.

One way or another, the privileged position of state-run nuclear power must be challenged.

Homeland bond

Growing desperation in German fiscal policy shines through the latest proposal by Theo Waigel, the finance minister, for a 'Germany bond' to help finance unification with less strain on the money supply and European interest rates. Herr Waigel suggested a low-interest, tax-exempt bond to help finance the growing debt mountain. The idea may appeal to Germans who hate paying tax as much as paying for unity, but merely exposes again the folly of the political pledge not to raise taxes.

The intention is to lure tax-shy German investors who had committed the unpatriotic sin of investing abroad back into the 'homeland'. The trouble is that many of those who have parked their funds in Luxembourg or Switzerland already enjoy tax exemptions of sorts and tend to require returns above 5 per cent. Two thirds of German savers do not reach the threshold to pay tax on their investments anyway. The impact of the bond is therefore likely to be more cosmetic than real. Given Chancellor Kohl's legendary ability to treat pledges pragmatically, he will probably accept the more drastic proposal by some coalition members for a compulsory savings bond for high-income groups. This would have a significant fiscal effect though it is only a euphemism for a tax. In that case, he will have broken his 'no-new-taxes' pledge twice within a term.

Jon Ashworth assesses the form of the leading contenders to win the Bank of England Governor's stakes, to be run in December

Very little of what goes on in the City escapes the eye of Britain's top financial headhunters. A whispered comment over breakfast at Claridge's, a nod and a wink during lunch at the Savoy Grill, will tell them all they need to know. The City is their chessboard and they position their pieces, top finance directors and chief executives, with infinite skill.

Yet these quiet professionals, endowed with impeccable pedigrees and cut from the bluest Establishment cloth, have been unable to snare the biggest catch of them all. None knows the answer to the most closely guarded secret of the year: who will succeed Robin Leigh-Pemberton as Governor of the Bank of England.

Next June, Mr Leigh-Pemberton, 65, will retire to the woods and pastures of his 2,500-acre estate in Kent after ten years at the helm. He has served two five-year terms, as did Gordon (now Lord) Richardson before him, and the question of who will replace him is intriguing. The successor to the post, which attracted a salary of £164,331 last year, is expected to be named in December.

The contenders are well-known. High on the list is Sir David Walker, 52, former chairman of the Securities and Investments Board and a man who would slot quite comfortably into what is, arguably, the most powerful financial post in the land next to that of Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The bookies favour Sir David — but only just. Others in the City insist that Sir David Scholey, 57-year-old chairman of SG Warburg Group, has won the race before it begins. Then there is Eddie George, deputy governor of the Bank and a favourite of insiders, and Sarah Hogg, economic adviser to John Major, with whom the choice of Governor lies.

For the headhunters, or executive search consultants, as they prefer to be known, placing the next Governor would be the ultimate assignment. It would have little to do with money. Finding the successor to Bob Horton, who earned £850,000 in salary and bonuses in 1991 as chairman and chief executive of BP, or, for that matter, a new chief executive officer for Lloyd's of London, yields a sizeable enough reward.

Placing the Governor would be a question of prestige. Firms like Goddard-Kay Rogers and Russell Reynolds, which overlook one another across the leafy tringes of St James's Square, and respected players like Miles Broadbent, of Norman Broadbent, hardly need to prove themselves. Finding the new Governor would be a crowning accolade, but for once, despite their connections, they are powerless.

One consultant who, like his con-

FAVOURITES FOR THE GOVERNORSHIP



Eddie George: joint second favourite at 11-4



Sir David Walker: ahead with the bookies at 7-4



Sarah Hogg: the strongest female runner at 6-1



Sir David Scholey: early frontrunner, now 11-4

temporaries, prefers to remain quietly in the background, compares the hunt for the new Governor to the slow, natural cycle of osmosis. "Perhaps this is the ultimate case of the old schoolboy network," he said. "Of course it would be a major coup to place the Governor, but it is not done in the business-like way."

While they may be powerless to participate in the selection process, the experts have their own views on

the best man — or woman — for the job. Sir David Walker, the punters' favourite, is in with a clear chance. "Solid" and "dependable" are the qualities most often mentioned. His term at the SIB and investigation into alleged malpractice in Lloyd's won high praise.

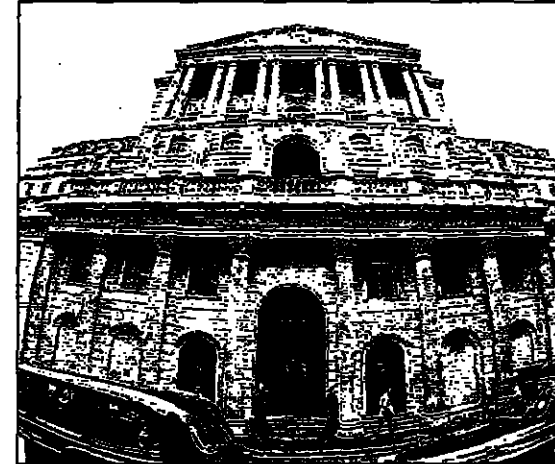
Since joining Lloyds Bank as deputy chairman in June, he has amazed staff with his enthusiasm and willingness to learn about their

industry. However, the task of absorbing all there is to know about British banking in 12 months may prove too much, even for him.

Ladbroke's, the bookmaker, has already taken £10,000 on the race. Eddie George, 54 next month, was the initial favourite, but Sir David, at 7-4, has knocked him into joint-second spot with Sir David Scholey at 11-4. Sarah Hogg is on 6-1. Sir Peter Middleton, former permanent secre-



Vacant post: Robin Leigh-Pemberton will retire as Governor of the Bank of England next June



tary at the Treasury, joins Sir Nicholas Goodison, the former chairman of the London Stock Exchange known for his fascination with antique clocks and barometers, at 12-1. Rosalind Gilmore, tough-talking chairman of the Building Societies Commission, lies further down the field at 14-1.

There are more. Lord Walker of Worcester, former Welsh secretary, is 16-1. Bruce Patullo, governor and group chief executive of Bank of Scotland, is 25-1. The rest, at 33-1 or greater, are rank outsiders. Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest, has all the right qualities but is almost certainly a non-runner simply because Mr Leigh-Pemberton was chairman before him.

Fellow outsiders include Sir James Ball, chairman of Legal & General, and Sir Adrian Cadbury, a Bank of England director since 1970. Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtauld, makes up the field with Lord Griffiths, former head of the prime minister's policy unit.

Before Sir David Walker entered the race, it was widely assumed that the mantle would fall on Eddie George or Sir David Scholey. Newspaper columnists were tipping Mr George for the post as far back as 1986, but he may now, ironically, be too valuable to sacrifice. Mr George, as deputy governor, effectively runs the Bank, leaving the governor free to take on the role of ambassador and to decide matters of policy.

Naturally, the pair must work well as a team. This might count against Sir David Walker, who, it is rumoured, does not enjoy a rapport with Mr George. The same cannot be said of Sir David Scholey, described by some as Britain's most powerful investment banker. A director of the Bank since 1981, he has had ample opportunity to befriend his inmates.

The list of "possibles" seems to be endless. Some favour Sir Geoffrey Howe for the post, or Sir Dennis Weatherstone, British-born chairman of JP Morgan, the American investment house. As one consultant puts it: "You need an effective player on the world stage. A UK banking or Treasury background is not enough."

Sarah Hogg, 46, with an Oxford first in philosophy, politics and economics and the former *Times* journalist, fits the bill but is probably too young. Head of the No 10 policy unit, she would slot in well next to such influential appointees as Barbara Mills, director of public prosecutions, and Frances Heston, director general of the takeover panel.

Rosalind Gilmore should not be discounted. Her forthright manner was demonstrated when Town & Country Building Society hit a rough patch last year. She summoned the chief executives of Britain's top five building societies to a meeting one Saturday in November and refused to let them leave until the problem was resolved. A merger with the Woolwich was the result.

The choice of Governor may confound us all. The choice of Mr Leigh-Pemberton in 1983 horrified City observers, who felt he was not cut out for the task. Now, as then, the headhunters will sit back in a quiet corner of Harry's Bar and sigh: "If only they'd come to us."

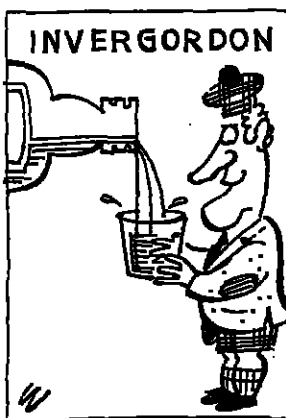
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Vintage Bowden

RAY Bowden, stores analyst at Robert Fleming, spends his weekdays number-crunching facts and figures from Britain's high streets. Evenings and weekends, he sells wine to 75,000 customers, turning over £24 million a year. Slightly spoken Bowden, 53, has just been made chairman of the Wine Society, a co-operative that traces its origins back to 1874. Previously its treasurer, for 10 years, Bowden says his new role means no more work but a good deal more mental effort. "It's a case of the buck stops here," he says. "Whereas before I used to go away from meetings and forget all about it, now I carry on thinking about it, planning the agenda for the next meeting." Given his City credentials, Bowden is anxious to point out that co-operative does not mean non-profit making. "Our objective is to make sufficient return to keep the gentle expansion and financing of the business healthy."

Experience counts

ELIZABETH Sullivan, a tall, elegant, redhead, with a taste for Veuve Clicquot champagne, today celebrates her second anniversary in the recruitment business and as she does so explains that she has developed a taste for the older man. Sullivan, a former stockbroker — the second woman to be admitted to the floor of the exchange — who formed Elizabeth Sullivan Associates, with funding from a number of highly placed City directors,



says there are tentative signs that the job market in the Square Mile is starting to recover, especially for sales and research people aged 45 plus. "In the last six months there has been a marked change in attitudes towards age," Sullivan says. "There was a time when anyone over 45 was considered too old, but now firms seem to prefer people with experience, who can bring contacts and business with them."

Values on call

AFTER its massive redundancy programme, British Telecom is now trying to boost morale with an incentive scheme for its remaining employees dubbed "Living our values". Posters displayed in BT offices show beaming staff members and a list of values such as "we work as a team". Employees nominated by colleagues or managers as living the values specified can win "luxury" items like a simulated bison leather personal organiser. So far, its staff have been more inclined to smug-

gle home posters as joke conversation pieces than to nominate deserving cases. But Clint Brown, who managed the project for BT, says the scheme has "exposed high quality work which had previously gone unnoticed." Speaking to *Personnel Management* magazine he added: "There is a wealth of information about what BT people are actually doing. People are bending over backwards to please customers."

Day for Somalia

MOTOR cycling stockbroker William Day — "No I don't wear leathers, I wear a rather groovy anorak instead" — who two years ago launched his own Japanese warrant firm, R.W. Day, has pledged to hand over his firm's entire income on Friday to the charity Care, to fund aid work in Somalia. "We could make £5,000 or £100,000, and we will not be deducting anything for our overheads," says Day, 33, whose office in Bevis Marks had to be rebuilt after the IRA bomb in April. "The chap running Care was my commanding officer in the Grenadier Guards. Even in this difficult market there is still some fat on the bones in the City." Compared with most firms, Day's overheads are modest, but they are, he says, about to increase. Of his seven employees, five are dealers and he is, he says, now looking for two more. "I've just advertised," he says "and we would also like to broaden our base into the regular liquid market."

CAROL LEONARD

Parity, the ERM and the realignment of sterling

From Mr Peter Jackson
Sir, We are told by supporters of current economic policies that the reason the mark is so strong is because "the Bundesbank has never flinched from taking unpopular and painful decisions" (The *Times*, August 27). Although I would not wish to denigrate the creative efforts of central banks, my perception is that the strength of the mark has more to do with Germany's consistently higher productivity and growth in GNP stemming from an equally consistent higher level of investment than other Western nations.

The reason for those levels of investment, as with Japan, has been stability in the expectations of businessmen based on predictable government policies and relatively stable costs of capital or interest rates. There is no "quick fix" guarantee of the long-term objective of growth, and certainly the use of widely fluctuating interest rates to control the economy and high interest

rates to engineer an unsustainable value of the pound are anathema to that goal.

A strong pound is desirable not for itself but in so far as it reflects a strong and growing economy. A high value for the pound achieved through the sham of high interest rates might satisfy macho or prestige ambitions (as recognised by Herr Jochimsen of the North Rhine Westphalia Central Bank) or save political faces, but will also prolong the current recession and deny the investment which Britain needs.

There is nothing to be gained by trying to preserve current ERM parities: if the value of the pound was correct at the time of joining the ERM with higher sterling interest rates and lower mark rates, then it is clearly unsustainable now with interest rates having converged dramatically and the GNP gap widening. The only alternatives are lower mark rates or a re-alignment of the pound within or outside the ERM. Sir Norman Fowler

claims this would lead to imported inflation. The intellectual basis for this claim appears threadbare, given the depths of the present recession and excess capacity.

With talk of higher interest rates to protect the pound, there can be no recovery. It will not be investment-led or export-led nor will it be consumer-led, given the attractive yield on savings and need to reduce indebtedness.

The time for action was 18 months ago: it is still better late than never. Yours faithfully, PETER JACKMAN (Chairman), Burgon & Ball Ltd, La Plata Works, Holme Lane, Sheffield

From J. W. Toms
Sir, I find it incomprehensible that so-called financial experts keep harping on about the fall in the value of the pound when it has fallen only relative to European currencies, most of which follow the mark. Relative to the yen and the dollar, the pound has risen this year, and in reality, the remedy for present troubles is for Germany to reduce its absurdly high interest rates, which are sucking loose capital into Germany at the expense of other major currencies. If we are to be members of a European club the other members also must act responsibly towards those in difficulties.

Devaluation may be necessary at some time, but higher interest rates than we now have are not only immoral, but stupid as they prevent the only long term remedy, ie investment in manufacturing industry, being used.

Yours faithfully J. W. TOMS, 5 St James Court, Clarendon Gardens, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Rates and empty properties

From Mr John Rowe
Sir, The article on rates on empty offices in *The Times* (Commercial Property, August 26) has drawn attention to the current situation but does not suggest a solution to the problem.

Empty industrial and warehouse properties are exempt from rates, as are listed buildings, but the government continues to inflict a rates burden of 50 per cent liability on empty offices and shops.

The government has really got itself into a fix by having set a uniform business rate from April 1990, and only allowing annual increases in line with inflation over the five-year period of the rating list.

A change in legislation to reduce empty rates on offices to 10 per cent will reduce the national annual income from empty property from £600 million to £120 million.

The remaining £480 million cannot be recovered by increasing the burden on other ratepayers, so the Treasury will need to bear that cost until March 31, 1995.

The government should weigh the cost of granting such relief against the risk of British companies going to

the wall and the consequential loss to the national wellbeing.

Is it asking too much of the government to support all of British industry, be it industrialists, retailers or developers, for the next two-and-a-half years?

Yours faithfully JOHN W. ROWE Kinney & Green, 5 Laurence Poutney Lane, EC4.

Haggling over the price of a pint

From Mr Chris Phillips
Sir, Greene King has a cheek to complain of falling sales when it's just put up its beer prices again.

Motorists haggle over the price of a new car. So why don't drinkers start negotiating with pub landlords over the price of a pint?

Yours faithfully, CHRIS PHILLIPS, 3 Boswell Gardens, Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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No.	Company	Group	Share
1	Read Ltd	Newspaper/Pub	1
2	BTM	Chemicals	1
3	Scotts	Chemicals	1
4	Johnson	Chemicals	1
5	Carlson	Chemicals	1
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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Mr John Clegg, of south-west London, was the winner of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

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Selective buying

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 24. Dealings end on Friday, September 11. Settlement day September 14. 8:00am bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Portfolio

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ACCOUNTANCY TIMES

Firms boost salaries of graduates

BY EDWARD FENNELL

GRADUATES joining some of the largest firms of accountants in London this week are more than just grateful that they have a job. They are also delighted by large and unexpected salary hikes. Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, for example, have just boosted their trainees' starting salaries up to £14,000. And at Grant Thornton this year's new arrivals are commanding £15,000. Meanwhile, the situation at Arthur Andersen is fluid. Roy Chapman, senior partner, has maintained the firm's traditional policy of staying ahead of the going rate and has been offering £14,250. This could be increased by as much as £500 within the next few days. Trainees at KPMG, however, will remain on £12,500.

The sudden pay increase, after a two-year freeze, amounts to a recognition that accountants are falling behind what leading employers in the City and industry now pay. David Chamberlain, an Oxford University careers adviser, says: "I admire PW for doing this, even though they gain no immediate competitive advantage. They have said, 'This is the going rate for graduates and we are going to pay it, a very professional way of handling the situation.'"

Accountancy is likely to remain as popular as ever for university leaders, but there are concerns about its future attractions for the brightest people. The profession offers a bundle of benefits, not least of which is extensive training and a valuable qualification. But if salaries start to slip too much, there is a danger that the profession will appear down-at-heel. Banks and big City solicitors pay more.

In any case there is now a trend towards quality rather than quantity. From the very large recruitment total in the Eighties, the numbers have

dropped sharply. KPMG, for example, is down from 1,000 to about 700. Firms are now keen to hold on to the people they recruit and no longer see them as audit fodder.

Grant Thornton has probably moved furthest, saying explicitly that the trainees it recruits are earmarked as the partners of the future. The firm's "business advisers scheme" will only take about 50 graduates, compared with the former target of 120, and demands are more stringent.

"We are recruiting people for a seven-year period of training designed to lead to partnership, rather than taking on people simply as audit trainees," Alan Sheldon, national director of personnel, said. "The fact that we are paying £15,000 is not designed to out-bid other firms but simply reflects what we feel is the right level to pay these kinds of people."

An important new factor is also coming into play. Never before have new graduates been so indebted on completing their studies. The offer of a few hundred pounds extra to help reduce overdrafts could strongly influence their choice. Mr Chamberlain said: "In normal times this kind of salary differential wouldn't make much difference — but these are not normal times."

KPMG remains unmoved by developments elsewhere. "We feel confident that we can continue to attract high calibre people at our current salary level and we will continue with our policy of salary increases being given only when linked to increased productivity and performance, after trainees have been with us for a year or 15 months or so," David Westcott, the human resources partner, said. Mr Westcott still concedes that the firm will have to come back to the issue when it reviews its recruitment strategy for next year.



Ahead of the going rate: Roy Chapman, senior partner at Arthur Andersen

ACCOUNTANCY LETTERS

A new PALS act replaces the old pals act

From Mr A. Hopkinson
Sir, *Accountancy Times* (August 27) contained "two alternative views of the absurdity of the tax system". One drew attention to needless complexities and delays in income tax. The other described some of the absurd cases dealt with by VAT tribunals.

Robert Bruce wrote: "The overwhelming question that the huge number of VAT tribunals' decisions pose is whether this sort of thing is really what grown men and women should be devoting their intellect, effort and careers to arguing over."

People used to talk about the "Old Pals Act". I think we now have a new PALS Act. It is for the legislators who pass needlessly complex laws. As for the administrators, the civil servants, who build their empires on those laws, P is for the professionals, mainly lawyers

and accountants, who earn fees from fighting over interpretation of the laws.

The rest of us, who pay for it, have to make it clear to our MPs, the legislators, that we will no longer tolerate this waste of time, money and intellect and that we demand simpler legislation.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY HOPKINSON,
Melbourn Bury,
Royston,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr Harry Shepherd
Sir, *Accountancy Times* (August 27) detailed absurdities in the tax system and in value-added tax. What about Companies House? As an eternal optimist, I registered a company name in October 1990, with the intention of launching a new business when the upturn occurred in the relevant sector. Not surprisingly,

the company is still dormant. I fully accept that owing to a box-up between my solicitor, my accountant and me, the nil return for the first financial year was submitted to Companies House six weeks overdue. I have, therefore, been fined £100. Incidentally, the same Registrar of Companies does not require disclosure of directors' lists for dormant companies.

Since I was determined to avoid a repetition of this official expression of the enterprise economy, I submitted the following year's return immediately. I am now advised that nil returns for dormant companies cannot be submitted in advance of the due date. Thank you, Michael Heseltine.

Yours faithfully
HARRY SHEPHERD,
83 Pembroke Crescent,
Hove, Sussex.

Search for panacea to institute's ills

THE perennial wail of the accountancy profession is that "no one understands us". This is followed with a search for a panacea. Invariably, if you are talking of the English ICA, largest of the accountancy bodies, the popular solution is for a director general to be appointed. The latest example of this phenomenon is to be found in the responses to what the institute called its "manifesto to members". This was issued earlier in the year in an effort to formalise long-term objectives. Now the district societies have sent their comments in. As might be expected in a relationship between a centralised subscription-paying, burnt-receiving membership of 90,000 people, the comments are not the rubber stamp the institute might have wished.

The tactics are simple. Take the London Society's effort. First a few kind words, then the society puts the boot in. "The manifesto is long-winded, repetitious and often ambiguous or poorly drafted." In common with many of the district societies that have sent in responses, one of its main priorities is for the institute "to appoint a director general to take the lead in implementing the strategy and key tasks required to achieve council's objectives and to be the consistent, high-profile representative of the institute". In other words, if only we could find this ultimate person all our problems would be over. The institute already has a chief executive whose duties cover the first part of the job description and to an extent cover the second. The problem is the combination of "consistent" with "high-profile representative". Life just is not like that. The district societies are in the land of knights on white chargers. If they thought about examples of high-profile policy explanation, rather than what might happen in utopia, they might reach a different conclusion. People in positions that combine senior policy implementation with high-profile explanations are as much revered as revered. A glance at recent newspaper coverage of the Chancellor and the value of sterling would make the point.

Even the classic examples from the profession's own recent history emphasise this. When Laker Airways went down and Bill Mackey, Ernst & Whinney's insolvency chief at the time, took charge, he did much for the profession's image by emphasising the decisive, business-like yet compassionate way in which an accountant could act. But the profession hated it. Complaints piled in. The

reason was that advertising by the firms was not yet allowed. But whenever Mackey made a statement on television he was careful to stand in front of a large logo giving Ernst & Whinney's name. Mackey's high-profile efforts were exactly what the profession needed. But much of the profession was furious.

If the aim is, as the society says, "to provide a higher public profile", what is required is probably not "a skilled communicator as director general" but a skilled communicator in command of public relations. This again is an area where the institute, and the profession generally, has not succeeded. Years ago, when the institute's annual conference took the daring step of opening up one afternoon to a question-and-answer session, the old problem of public image came up. "Why not appoint a public relations adviser?" shouted one member. It had to be pointed out that the ill-mannered chap seated next to him had been the institute's full-time adviser for the past two years. It is not as though the institute has no experience in the field. Its chief executive joined originally as its head of public relations. Numerous successors have come and gone with startling speed.

One managed to get her resignation note in just an hour before she had to leave up the post. The institute is now looking for a replacement for the current incumbent, who has just resigned after a record-breaking two years. The problem, as I generally is with public relations, is the old one of the panacea. It is required to solve all the image problems. But public relations, like the weather, is a topic that everyone feels they have valid opinions on. A dozen people in the secretariat pull this way and that and the public relations expert gives up in despair.

The answer, as the most successful of the big accounting firms have found, is that such a post has to be a senior one and there is a direct relationship between the amount of success the person has to the intricacies of central power and decision-making and the success of the public relations effort. In a close-knit secretariat this does not come easily. The institute has let it be known that it is not really looking for a skilled public relations person at this time. The word is that it wants "more of an administrator who can write" than one of those unmanageable people who have views on what should be done.

The author is the Associate Editor of *Accountancy Age*



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Gower's experience presents dilemma for selection panel

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**Jones has
four lives
in century**

Despite his preference for batting at three, Hick would still be my choice. He offers so much more than any other candidate, is at least as good a one-day player as Fairbrother and must, at some stage, come good in Test cricket.

My party would be: Gooch, Stewart, Atherton, Smith, Gatting, Gower, Hick, Lewis, Reeve, Russell, Emburey, Tufnell, DeFreitas, Malcolm, Cork, Mallender.

Gower: has responded

Jones has four lives in century

Moratuwa will be the scene of the third Test, starting next Tuesday. (Reuters)

NatWest final tickets returned to counties

BY PETER BALL

10-10-68

☐ Nottinghamshire have clinched a £35,000 sponsorship deal which will enable them to offer five of their players winter employment.

Somerset stumped by Surrey

Tim Lamb, the board's cricket secretary, said the county groundsmen would be consulted at a meeting tomorrow. "Although the stump camera adds a dramatic dimension to televised coverage, it will be a purely visual thing," he said. "It is unlikely that the board will approve in-stump microphones in the foreseeable future."

Capel saves the follow-on

BY PETER BALI

From the moment Yorkshire elected to bat for a day and a half, Northamptonshire were forced to concentrate on saving the game before even thinking about winning it. Although Robinson again enjoyed a good day against his former county, bowling for 35 overs in all with sustained accuracy and finding some movement to finish with six for 62, reaching 50 wickets in the process, it was not festival

With Curran for company, Capel, usually a free spirit, set himself the responsibility. He can rarely, if ever, have batted so slowly, watching carefully

That was the end of Robinson's success, as Ripley settled in as Capel's companion on his marathon. Tea finally broke his concentration, Capel charging Grayson and missing, an incongruous end to an innings of puritan self-denial, but Ripley and Roberts ensured it had not been in vain. The ball is now with Moxon.

Archer century halts Derbyshire

By RICHARD STREETON

When Lewis was bowled by the penultimate ball of the day, they had added 168 in 53 overs. In the previous over, Archer reached a chanceless century when he drove Warner through the covers for his tenth four. It had taken 4½ hours.

He also hit three sixes

Until these two joined forces, Derbyshire were in full control. Bramhall, the nightwachman, was caught at square leg, and Pollard,

The idea stems from the success of Lancashire who raised £100,000 from two concerts by the group Simply Red at Old Trafford in July.

BOWLS

Stanger has last word in dramatic final end

By GORDON ALLAN

The other match could have gone either way before Cove edged through 16-14 against Garston. It was 14-14 on the last end, and although Garston's front men failed and Cove lay five, John Hay and John Simmons almost transformed the position by using weight.

7-12

POLO
Panthers
prove
too strong

BY JOHN WATSON

With hard-hitting Martin Glue opening for Stilemans and Andrew Seavill replying, the scores were level at 1-1 by halftime. However, the Seavill brothers gave Panthers a particularly tough attacking nose and just before the close of the third chukka, their back Chris

BRIDGE

This took the confident British into the 64-board semi-final against the strong Germans, while Austria and France contested the other ticket to the final.



Off course: Knight and Garnham, the Essex wicketkeeper, celebrate as Smith, of Hampshire, is bowled by Such for 23 yesterday, leaving Essex in control at Chelmsford. Match report, page 26

the fourth opening to a Panthers penalty conversion for a 3-1 lead. Glue then scored a 40-yarder, but Andrew Seavill replied on the last bell to restore Panthers' two-goal lead.

PANTHERS: 1. J. Glasson (C); 2. C. Seavill (C); 3. A. Seavill (C); back, C. Bithell (F).
STILLBURN: 1. G. Lawson (F); 2. M. Evans (C); 3. M. Gills (F); back, W. Healy (F).

BRIDGE

British team in semi-final after big win

Salsomaggiore, Italy: Britain beat Holland by 201 international match points to 81 in the women's series at the world team Olympiad, easily the biggest margin in the four quarter-final matches (Albert Dormer writes).

This took the confident British into the 64-board semi-final against the strong Germans, while Austria and France contested the other ticket to the final.

MATCHES PLAYED 29TH AUGUST 1992

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1221. Grayson 23-79-71.			
Bonus points: Yorkshire 5, Northamptonshire 1.			
Umpires: H D Bird and V A Holder.			
Worcestershire vs Leics			
CRISTOL (third day of four): Gloucestershire have scored 157 for three wickets against Gloucestershire.			
C D Hodgson not out	First Innings		
R J Scott c Benson b Benjamin	76		
M W Atkinson c Benjamin J D Benson	4		
C J Alfrey bow b Benjamin	1		
T H C Hawcock not out	45		
Extras (lb 7, nb 1)	10		
Total 6 wickets, 157 runs	157		
HRC Russell c TJ C Vaughan, *CA Walsh, M C Ball, M Davies and M J Gerrard to bat.			
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-73, 2-80, 3-85			
LEICESTERSHIRE: T J Boon, N E Bether, J W Whiteley, J D Benson, J R Potter, P A Nixon, A D Maitland, W K M Benjamin, G J Parsons and D J Mills.			
Bonus points: Gloucestershire 1, Leicestershire 1.			
Umpires: J W Holder and P B Wright			
Glamorgan vs Sussex			
CARDIFF (third day of four): Sussex with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 122 runs ahead from Glamorgan.			
Glamorgan: First Innings			
S P James bow b C M Wells	32		
H Morris b Donnelly	20		
J W Whiteley not out	1		
*M P Maitland bow b Salisbury	7		
P A Coyerley bow b C M Wells	58		
Extras (lb 1, nb 1)	2		
R D C Cridd c Giddens c C M Wells	32		
R P T Mitchell run out	1		
S D Weston not out	1		
S D Thomas c Moores b Salisbury	8		
S R Bawick bow b Salisbury	10		
Extras (lb 3, nb 2, rs 0)	5		
Total 288			
Score after 3 wickets: 265-5			
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-128, 3-142, 4-160, 5-185, 6-232, 7-270, 8-298, 9-298.			
BOWLING: Stephenson 17-0-43; Giddins 16-0-39; Coyerley 23-1-70; C M Wells 24-12-32; Salisbury 26-15-70; Donnelly 8-0-12.			
SUSSEX: First Innings			
N J Lanthorn bow b Waldrin	30		
J W Hall c Coyerley b Thomas	13		
C G Giddens c Coyerley b Thomas	16		
*A P Wells bow b Waldrin	35		
P R Wright c Coyerley b Thomas	10		
C M Wells c Kemp b D Thomas	6		
K Moores bow b Mills to Dale	6		
S D Weston not out	1		
B T P Donnelly not out	5		
Extras (rs 0)	6		
Total 7 (wickets)	148		
D R Salisbury and E S H Giddins to bat.			
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-64, 3-71, 4-71, 5-80, 6-103, 7-108.			
Bonus points: Glamorgan 6, Sussex 3.			
Umpires: D R Shepherd and A A Jones.			
Test match			
Sri Lanka vs Australia			
COLOMBO (first day of five): Sri Lanka drew with Australia.			
AUSTRALIANS: First Innings (247 D J Jones, 100 D L Underwood)			
Second Innings 206			
T M Moody b Muralitharan	54		
A J Warne bow b Muralitharan	15		
D C Boon c Mahanama	15		
D M Jones not out	100		
C C Weir c Muralitharan	51		
P A Border bow b Anura Kumara	21		
G M Matthews c Mahanama b Anura Kumara	58		
*S J Waak not out	1		
Extras (lb 4, rs 0, nb 5)	9		
Total 6 (wickets drew)	290		
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-102, 3-104, 4-104, 5-149, 6-200.			
BOWLING: Rangana 10-2-49; G Lyon 13-1-47; Muralitharan 12-1-22; Anura Kumara 14-11-65; Muralitharan 34-7-			

Second innings

R S Hathurusingha bow to McDermott	69
U C Hathurusingha c Moody	
P S Jayasuriya not out	49
A P Gunawardene not out	6
Extras (fb 8, nb 3)	9
Total (2 wickets)	136

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-170, 2-126.

BOWLING: McDermott 19-7-32-2; Whithrey 5-2-14-0; Matthews 21-5-59-3; Doodmeads 5-2-11-0; Border 4-0-15-0.

Man of the Match: Dean Jones (Australia).

Next Test: Sept 6-13 (Morotua).

Umpires: 1 Anandappa and 'U' Wickremesinghe.

Robinson: six wickets for Yorkshire

the fourth, opened with a Panthers penalty conversion for a 3-1 lead. Glue then scored a 40-yarder, but Andrew Seavill replied on the last bell to restore Panthers' two-goal lead.

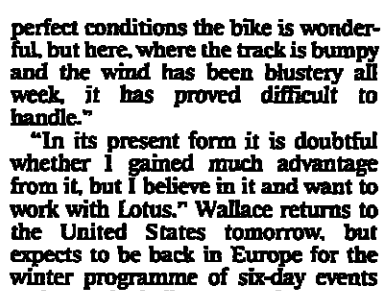
PANTHERS: 1. J Glasson (3); 2. C Seavill (4); 3. A Seavill (4); back, C Bathurst (4).
STURGEONS: 1. G Lawton (1); 2. M Evans (4); 3. M Glue (3); back, W Healy (3).

BRIDGE

British team in semi-final after big win

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This took the confident British into the 64-board semi-final against the strong Germans, while Austria and France contested the other ticket to the final.



Golf: Chick Harbert, the former US PGA champion, died on Tuesday. He was 77.

ent he can ssive hype

ING CORRESPONDENT

best. No one's got my hand speed and footwork." Hide's American sparring partner, Rocky Sekorski, who has boxed men like George Foreman, Michael Dokes, Leon Spinks and Pierre Coetzer, says: "Herbie has it all."

Sekorski's message to his fellow Americans was: "Look over your shoulders. There's a kid here in Britain who's going to knock you all over. He moves like Ali and punches like Foreman. He has incredible, lightning hand-speed. This kid is definitely a future heavyweight champion of the world."

For the benefit of those who doubted that Hide, a blow-up cruiserweight, really has the punch to hurt the big men, Sekorski warned: "Forget Herbie's hand trouble. He's punching really hard. He's punching harder than ever. I should know. It's my chin he's been hitting."

Uefa announces £15m jackpot to be shared between successful clubs in European Cup

Television windfall awaits Leeds

By CLIVE WHITE

TELEVISION continued to dole out its millions to the chosen few yesterday when Leeds United and Rangers, the British representatives in this season's European Cup, discovered that, should they reach the last eight of the competition, they will share in a pool of more than £15 million as a result of an agreement reached between Uefa and European broadcasters.

ITV, anxious to make up ground lost to BSkyB in its abortive bid for exclusive rights to cover the FA Premier League, has agreed an estimated £3 million two-year contract with Uefa, football's European governing body, for live coverage of the "Champions League" — as the round-robin stage of Europe's premier club competition is being called.

ITV, who have already agreed a deal with Leeds to cover their first-round tie against VfB Stuttgart and, should they progress, their second-round games, are gambling on the British clubs reaching the quarter-final stage. Arsenal and Rangers, it may be remembered, went out in the opening two rounds last season.

"Somewhere in the region of ten million viewers will watch the Champions League — probably something like 20 times the number of people watching the Premier League on that other channel," Bob Burrows, head of ITV sport, said.

With the European television deal — an idea conceived by Rangers and Anderlecht — the rewards for reaching the latter stages are bigger than ever. While cynics who watched Howard Wilkin-

son, the Leeds manager, pose for photographers holding the treasured trophy will say that that is as close as he will get to carrying it off, nobody can say he and his club will not want for incentive.

The quarter-finalists could receive up to £3.13 million each even before they reach the final thanks to an incentive scheme which will credit them with £191,000 for every point they score in the round-robin format, on top of a guaranteed sum of £810,000.

With still five contracts to be agreed, Uefa has totalled about £29 million in its deals with Europe's broadcasters, of which 54 per cent will be shared by the last eight, according to achievement. It is keeping back 25 per cent to help with the travelling expenses of clubs eliminated in the early rounds.

"I wouldn't call it a Robin Hood system," Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, said, "because we give to the rich more than they had before." He admitted, though, that initially it was difficult to get some of the bigger clubs to agree. "If you're a director owning a club and at the same time a television station then, you run into some problems," he said, with an obvious reference to men with dual interests like Silvio Berlusconi and Bernard Tapie, the powers behind AC Milan and Marseilles, respectively.

Plans are afoot for the Cup Winners' Cup and Uefa Cup to follow the same round-robin format as the European Cup within the next two years, though Johansson conceded that clubs would have to trim their domestic involvement.

ITV announced that it has secured the rights to cover England's World Cup qualifier away to Poland on May 29.



Sign of things to come: Johansson, left, and Wilkinson hold aloft the European Cup yesterday

Lake's career in danger

By IAN ROSS

THE career of Paul Lake, Manchester City's gifted defender, is almost certainly over at the age of 23. Lake's worst fears were realised yesterday when he heard a specialist's verdict on the serious knee injury sustained during the Premier League game against Middlesbrough at Ayresome Park a fortnight ago.

The England Under-21 international centre back is suffering from a severed cruciate ligament in his left knee, the same injury which kept him out of football for almost

exactly two years until his return in this season's opening fixture against Queen's Park Rangers at Maine Road.

Peter Reid, the City manager, admitted yesterday that Lake's lengthy fight to regain full fitness could now be at an end.

"Any specialist treatment which he needs will be provided but we will be governed by what Paul feels is best for himself," he said. "If he does not want to face the ordeal for a second time we will abide by his wishes. The picture does

look black at the moment but we are not giving up all hope just yet. Everyone at this club is devastated by the news, and our hearts go out to him.

"It is a tragedy in many ways because he is so young. I am sure that many people within football would agree that Paul is one of the most talented individuals the English game has produced for many years," Reid said. Lake, who joined City as a trainee in 1986 and made his league debut in January 1987, first damaged his knee in a game against Aston Villa at Maine Road at the start of the 1990-1 season. That was just a few weeks after he was given a five-year contract and made captain. He won the first of five Young England caps against Denmark in 1988.

Lake, who also played for the England B side, was involved in a frightening accident during the match against Leicester in March 1989, when he swallowed his tongue. Prompt action by City's medical trainer, Roy Bailey, helped to save his life.

Kevin Bartlett, Notts County's transfer-listed forward, is to join Port Vale on a month's loan with a view to a permanent move. He has not figured in manager Neil Warnock's first team plans this season.

Liverpool unable to find top form

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SIX points garnered from six Premier League games represents Liverpool's worst start to a season for more than 30 years, and a 1-1 draw at home to Southampton on Tuesday night was hardly what supporters at Anfield were expecting. The jeers that echoed around the stadium during and after the game left Graeme Souness, the club's manager, in no doubt as to their feelings.

Southampton took the lead early in the second half when Kerry Dixon, from close range, scored his first goal since leaving Chelsea. Liverpool drew level on the hour when Mark Wright, a Southampton old boy, headed home.

Manchester City's first Premier League away win — by 1-0 — against Wimbledon at Selhurst Park — was highlighted by David White's fifth goal in six games. While that was a fitting way for White to celebrate his call-up to the England senior squad, it left Wimbledon bottom of the table and without a win in their half-dozen outings.

Victory vindicated the decision of Peter Reid, the City player-manager to select himself ahead of Steve McMahon,

but while Reid did well, it was White, who was being watched by Graham Taylor, the England manager, who stole the show. "David will score goals at the top level and deserves a chance," Reid said. "I think he will get better. He is not the finished article."

Last spring, Eric Cantona experienced a difficult debut for Leeds United against Oldham Athletic. A few months on, the Frenchman is an honorary Yorkshireman. He scored twice at Boundary Park on Tuesday — his fifth and sixth goals of the season — as the champions drew 2-2.

With five minutes to go, Leeds were winning 2-0, but two late goals — the second in the dying seconds — from Ian Olney, Oldham's close-season signing from Aston Villa, changed all that. Leeds have now failed to win at Boundary Park in their last eight visits.

Bernie Slaven has scored many important goals for Middlesbrough over the past seven years, but the forward missed a penalty in the nineteenth minute against Ipswich Town at Ayresome Park which would have given Middlesbrough a 3-2 win. As it was, Ipswich remain unbeaten in the Premier League.

Saunders move at deadlock

ASTON Villa were last night still hoping to complete the signing of Dean Saunders from Liverpool in time for their Premier League game with Crystal Palace on Saturday (Chris Moore writes). But there was little sign of development yesterday after the two clubs had become deadlocked over the transfer fee.

Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, gave the impression on Tuesday that he had struck a deal with his Anfield counterpart, Graeme Souness. But it has since transpired that Doug Ellis, the chairman at Villa Park, has not yet approved the total package.

"Our board of directors have had a meeting today and have made Liverpool a formal offer. But at the moment the clubs have not reached an agreement," Atkinson said. "Obviously I am hopeful we will do so. It's no secret I've long been an admirer of the player."

If the deal goes through, Liverpool are likely to receive about £2.3 million, which would represent a loss of £600,000 on the then British record fee of £2.9 million they paid Derby County for Saunders in July last year.

Aymes delays Essex's title celebrations

By JACK BAILEY

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Hampshire, with two second-innings wickets remaining, lead Essex by 116 runs

THE real celebrations had to be postponed. Essex went to a civic reception last night to celebrate last year's county cricket championship, but thanks to the Hampshire tail, led by forthright batting by Adrian Aymes, their wicket keeper, the champagne at their county club headquarters remained on ice. Furthermore, Essex will need to wrap up the Hampshire innings fairly speedily today or this last match at home may not see them crowned as British Assurance champions.

Almost until the teams left the field some 50 minutes early, there remained a strong possibility of Essex winning inside three days. But Aymes's three-hour stay for an unbeaten 47 and his partnership of 53 in 26 overs with Shaun Udall for the eighth wicket not only set back the celebrations, it also gave Hampshire just the barest chance of winning.

This has, after all, been a match of unexpected happenings. Not as astonishing as Tuesday's last-wicket stand between Childs and Such for Essex, but certainly as refreshing, was the way Jon Ayling, Aymes and Udall played with ever-stiffening resolve to keep Essex at bay. That only an hour and 50 minutes should have been lost to the weather was also a minor miracle considering the heavy cloud that moved all round the ground throughout the day.

The astonishingly low-key performance of Hampshire's early batting will have raised a few eyebrows, too. As they clattered to 63 for six, following two brief delays for rain, the apparent lack of care and some of the ambitious strokes played, left you wondering what was going on.

Essex bowled well, but were flattered. Pringle used the seam effectively and was rewarded when Stephenson

took a fine catch at second slip to remove Middleton. At 15 for one, Hampshire were still 50 behind, but Gower was a man who looked as if he had other things on his mind. His first shot was a mistimed hook which fell short of mid-on. Four singles later he pulled 110 to mid wicket, the ball only marginally short of a length.

When James, on the defensive, was beaten by Pringle it was bad enough for Hampshire. But when Nicholas, playing back to a full length ball from Childs was bowled, and Hampshire were 37 for four at lunch disaster beckoned. Essex enjoyed their meal.

Until the advent of Ayling nothing much happened to spoil their digestion. Marshall looked surprised to be caught, possibly off bat and boot, at slip. Smith remained for 80 minutes, but his defensive play against the spinners was far from convincing and, striving to break free, he aimed to hit Such through the covers and Such's off-spin did the rest.

Ayling, together with Aymes, stopped the rot. Ayling showed his genuine all-round talent during a partnership of 56 but took the gilt off the gingerbread by hitting out to long off. Udall could make a batsman yet — he fell victim to a brilliant leg-side stumping off Stephenson's first ball of the match — and Aymes was irreproachable.

The weather forecast for today, or at least for this morning, is good enough for Essex not to have too many concerns about being able to see the match to a finish. Perhaps they will have more of an eye on the possibility of Hampshire coming from behind and bowling them out, just as Essex did to Hampshire at Bourne in June. In the circumstances, 150 could take some getting, given all the time in the world. News is that Shine will probably be able to bat though severely hampered in movement, so Essex still have a bit to do.

SCOREBOARD	
HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 233 (P M Such 4 for 29)	J J Turner not out 0
Second Innings	Excess to 4, 10 6, 10 2 15
T C Middleton c Stephenson b Pringle 2	Total (8 wickets) 181
D J Gower c Pringle b Iltis 15	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-22, 3-35, 4-37, 5-45, 6-63, 7-119, 8-172
R A Smith b Such 4	ESSEX: First Innings 298 (P J Pringle 82, J Turner 5 for 81)
M C J Nicholas b Childs 0	Bonus points: Essex 6, Hampshire 6
M D Marshall c Pringle b Childs 22	Umpires: A G T Whitehead and G Sharp.
J R Ayling c Iltis b Childs 31	
R A Hynes not out 47	
S D Udall c Gernham b Stephenson 32	

Steadman fined for drug offence

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Rugby Football League (RFL) ended a seven-week silence about a positive drugs test on Graham Steadman, the Great Britain full back, by fining him £1,000 yesterday for taking banned substances contained in a medicine for a throat and chest infection.

Steadman tested positive after Britain's 19-16 defeat of New Zealand in the second Test in Auckland in July, and confirmed to medical officers afterwards that he had taken medication without clearance from David Graham, the team doctor.

Rather than immediately publicising the incident and putting at risk the domestic game's reputation as a relatively drug-free environment, the tour management decided not to raise the matter, but leave it to the RFL's board of directors for a final verdict.

At yesterday's board meeting in Leeds, Steadman said his action in buying a medicine from a chemist on the eve of the Auckland game, and failure to seek the advice of the team doctor, was naive.

A short statement issued by the RFL said that the board accepted his explanation, but that a fine — the first against an individual for failing a drugs test — was necessary as "it was felt that the player had been irresponsible in not checking the contents of the Australian-made product".

In the five years since random testing was introduced into rugby league, there have been seven similar instances when substances on the banned list were traced to medical treatments. Each time, clubs and players were warned as to their future

conduct. Darryl Van de Velde, Steadman's coach at Castleford, said: "These substances can be obscure and Graham was simply unfortunate. As far as the club is concerned, the case is closed."

The failure, however, of the authorities to admit to the incident sooner says as much about the professional body's jealous protection of its generally drug-free image as it does about its strict policy in dealing harshly with transgressors.

David Watson, the former Halifax and New Zealand stand-off half, is now serving a three-month ban for using cannabis. After recent reports about increased social and steroid drug abuse among amateur players, the British Amateur Rugby League Association has introduced random testing this season.

Yesterday's board meeting also fined Martin Offiah, of Wigan, £250, and severely reprimanded Kelvin Skerrett, for the failure of both players to collect loser's medals after the Charity Shield at Gateshead last month.

David Hulme, the Widnes half-back listed at £100,000 after rejecting a new contract, has signed a 12-month deal. Tony Myler, the former Great Britain stand-off also rated at £100,000, is now the only Widnes player not to have agreed terms.

Augustine O'Donnell, the new St Helens scrum half, faces a two-month lay-off after breaking a thumb. Salford have agreed a deal with Rochdale Hornets to sign £80,000-listed centre Darren Abram in exchange for scrum-half Steve Kerry and a cash adjustment.

Awford opts to stay at Portsmouth

ANDY Awford, Portsmouth's £1.5 million-rated defender, has ended speculation about his future by signing a two-year contract which keeps him at Fratton Park until 1994.

The team captain, 20, who saw his friend, Darren Anderson, join Tottenham Hotspur, for £1.7 million in the summer, said: "I still have a lot to learn. I have been a regular for only a season and I need a couple more before I can consider anything else."

"We did well enough last season to make me believe we can get into the Premier League without me having to leave."

Portsmouth yesterday confirmed they are to make a planning application to build a new ground four miles from their present home. They are meeting with the local planning authority to discuss the scheme, which will bring the club into line with the Taylor Report.

Club sponsorship renewed

By ALAN LORIMER

EDINBURGH Academicals have announced a renewed sponsorship agreement with Glenmorangie for the coming season. The deal, worth £20,000, is believed to be the highest negotiated by a Scottish rugby club for a single season.

Academicals, who finished runners-up behind Melrose in the McEwan's league last season, also announced that they are to hold a testimonial dinner for David Sole, the Scotland captain, who retired from both international and club rugby at the end of the Scotland tour to Australia during the summer.

Sole's berth at loose-head prop in the Academicals' side looks likely to go to Duncan Wilson, the former Scotland Under-21 player, who has joined from Currie.

They have also been strengthened by the return of the Scotland B lock, Jeremy Richardson, and centre, Chris Simmers, who played for Scotland in the Student World

Cup, after a season with Racing Club of Paris, and the addition of the Scotland hooker, Martin Scott, from Dunfermline, who will replace John Allan, who has returned to South Africa.

The former Olympic hurdler, Nigel Walker, will make debut for Cardiff on Saturday in the Heineken League match against Aberavon.



Sole: dinner date

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Where drama is most switched on

Much of today's best acting and new drama is to be found on the small screen, not in live theatre. **Benedict Nightingale** looks ahead to the autumn season of television plays

Here are some trick questions. Which theatre recently gave house-room to Michael Hordern, who is widely assumed to have retired from the stage? Which will soon be offering a still more elusive theatrical knight, Alec Guinness, the chance to play the exiled Heinrich Mann in a revival of Christopher Hampton's *Tales from Hollywood*? Which is presenting no fewer than three plays by Simon Gray in the coming months, and which can boast of having also secured the services of Juliet Stevenson, David Suchet, Brian Cox, Anton Lesser, Sinead Cusack and Alan Howard, along with several other classical actors?

Look up and walk a few yards. The theatre will probably be in front of you, waiting only for you to turn the switch. Michael Grade and others have been saying some hard things about British television of late; but, at least as far as drama is concerned, it is going through an enviable confident phase. Critics complain of a lack of new plays on the stage proper. Well, the BBC has increased its output of original drama by 45 per cent this year. Everybody moans about the dereliction of the British movie industry. Well, name me an American network that can compete with Grade's Channel 4, which is presenting 16 of its own films this autumn alone.

Certainly, it is hard to imagine any American channel, or for that matter any American theatre, originating the play shown on BBC 2 last night, David Edgar's *Buying a Landslide*. So timid are America's television companies, so loath are its dramatists to get to grips with politics, that it is left to an English writer and network to make a serious contribution to what is, after all, US election year. Can you imagine NBC hiring British actors for a play about a Tory candidate's attempts to breeze into Parliament? Hardly.

Edgar once said he "loved committees". He certainly enjoys imagining his way into the backrooms where deals are struck and power brokered. He did that in the play about the collapse of an East European regime that he recently wrote for the National, *The Shape of the Table*, and he did it rather more effectively last night.

Painstakingly, authoritatively, he showed a Republican senator being experimentally reconstructed by his wrangling aides in readiness for a debate with his Democratic challenger. One moment he was all avuncular affability, as he practised patronising his opponent into oblivion, and the next all aggressive innuendos and anti-liberal sneers. But could one of these chameleon images triumph over his own lack

of substance and conceal a backer's corruption?

Since this was a play that would have succeeded in the Cottesloe or Pit, it raised a question that theatre buffs like myself find uncomfortable. Are the millions who watch television drama, but cannot follow the thousands into our more upmarket playhouses, abjectly failing to keep abreast of events on the British stage? All my live-theatre chauvinism makes me itch to say yes, they are. But I am no longer sure that this is the truth.

Agreed, there are major actors — John Wood and Vanessa Redgrave, for example — who appear seldom on television. Obviously, viewers also miss the physical immediacy of our more robust performers. Fiona Shaw's raging Electra or flailing Hedda Gabler, Antony Sher's Arturo Ui, or Juliet Stevenson's victim-turned-avenger in *Death and the Maiden*: watching them was less like sitting in a living room than crouching self-protectively in the lion's den at London Zoo.

Then again, television has yet to discover how to cope with Shakespeare and the Jacobean. Indeed, it tends to become awkward when it ventures away from naturalism. One of the dreariest things I have seen on the box this year was Manfred Karge's *Man to Man*, a sub-expressionist play in which Tilda Swinton eyeballed the viewers, dolefully telling them how economic misfortune had forced her to pose as a crane-driver.

It would, I fear, take years of trudging round London theatres to see all the acting talent that is crumpling your living-room playhouse in 1992. Richard Johnson or Elizabeth Spriggs appear seldom on stage these days. Yet there they were in a marvellous adaptation of Angus Wilson's *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes* last spring, Johnson exuding ruminative melancholy, Spriggs gurgling about as his shrill, self-silencing wife.

Again, how often do we see Maggie Smith, surely the wittiest actress alive? Yet there she was with Michael Hordern, Cyril Cusack, Zoe Wanamaker and a cast that no American network could conceivably have assembled, demonstrating her range as the sly venomous fortune-hunter in *Memento Mori*. And has Sara Kestelman given a stronger performance on the stage than in Screen Two's *The Last Romantic*? Her Queenie Leavis, balefully pushing Ian Holm's F.R. into deepening paranoia, left me itching to see her perform the original Lady Macbeth, not just a Cambridge done.

Nor do the weeks ahead suggest any slackening on the part of television's casting directors: not with David Suchet about to materialise as the down-at-heel anarchist, Verloc, in Joseph Conrad's *Secret Agent*; not with Alan Bates as a British playwright on creative safari in America in Simon Gray's three-part version of his diaries, *Unnatural Pursuits*; not with Channel 4 launching a 16-film season that opens with Alison Steadman and Timothy Spall in Mike Leigh's *Life Is Sweet*, and includes Sinead Cusack and Bill Paterson in an adaptation of Jane Gardam's *God on the Rocks*, as well as performances from Saskia Reeves and Julie Christie.

Moreover, several actors are confronting a challenge only the stage

with David Suchet about to materialise as the down-at-heel anarchist, Verloc, in Joseph Conrad's *Secret Agent*; not with Alan Bates as a British playwright on creative safari in America in Simon Gray's three-part version of his diaries, *Unnatural Pursuits*; not with Channel 4 launching a 16-film season that opens with Alison Steadman and Timothy Spall in Mike Leigh's *Life Is Sweet*, and includes Sinead Cusack and Bill Paterson in an adaptation of Jane Gardam's *God on the Rocks*, as well as performances from Saskia Reeves and Julie Christie.

Moreover, several actors are confronting a challenge only the stage



Topical text: Griffin Dunne in *Buying a Landslide* by David Edgar (left), last night's television play about American politics



Edward Bond (left), starting a new career as a television writer, and Simon Gray, who will have three plays broadcast shortly

Minghella, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Doug Lucie, Shelagh Delaney, Martin Sherman, Bill Morrison and Stephen Lowe: stage dramatists who have all recently had or are about to have plays performed on the box. Even Edward Bond, whose work for the theatre has deteriorated in recent years, is launching a new career as a television writer with *Oily's Prison*, a three-part play in which Bernard Hill plays a man jailed for manslaughter.

Nor is there any reason to buy the

argument that one medium spoils a writer for the other. In the case of Simon Gray, in particular, the opposite seems true. His *Hidden Laughter*, staged in London in 1990, followed several equally fine small-screen pieces, and the play he has just finished for the theatre, about the spy George Blake, comes in the wake of a deluge of television work: *The Common Pursuit* last spring; this autumn, both *An Unnatural Pursuit* and *Running Late*, with Peter Bowles as a television interviewer in crisis; early

next year, *Femme Fatale*, about an Italian beauty in dumbstruck Devon.

Gray seems positively to relish a situation in which each of his ideas can find its own, organic form. Even though one hour of a major play can cost £800,000 to make, the BBC these days does not often try to cut costs by squeezing its television drama indoors and onto videotape. And though some of Gray's ideas are well enough suited to the stage, others need the scope and spread that only film can bring. There are plenty of playwrights who will tell you the same.

But does all this filmic naturalism have a narrowing effect? Are viewers missing the variety that theatregoers can find or, more accurately, like to believe they can find? I don't think so. It is hard to see any patterns or trends in this year's television plays. Mark Shivas, the BBC's Head of Drama, sees a new toughness, "maybe reflecting the times we're going through", in the work arriving this autumn: *Between the Lines*, a series about police corruption, and *Black and Blue*, a play on the same subject by that scourge of the force, G.F. Newman; *Civies*, another series, this time about paras adjusting to the real world.

A lack of pattern may betoken the diversity that Shivas rightly thinks it his duty to promote. Not all the drama his department has produced this year has struck me as

excellent; yet when I used these columns mildly to attack *Enchanted April*, about a group of Englishwomen magically transformed by an Italian holiday, I received several irritated letters from readers. There is a public for gentle romance, as there presumably is for Simon Gray comedy, and political drama, and plays about homosexual "outing", and the other offerings this last spring and summer.

Similarly, the autumn offers a Barry Hines comedy about a girl footballer, a documentary drama about the Alaskan oil spill, a tough-guy play about boxing by Lynda La Plante, a black comedy about a professional hoaxer, and a historical piece about witchfinders, as well as sardonic Gray and incisive Newman, *A Doll's House* and *Six Characters*. They may all, of course, turn out to be awful, proof that the BBC should lose its licence for incompetence. Alternatively, they may show that in one area at least the Corporation has not yet succumbed to the killer-blend of timidity and elitism of which Michael Grade accused it. If only all our theatres could claim as much.

TOMORROW

Art: Richard Cork on the fertile sculpture of Peter Randall-Page

You probably won't have heard of Kevin Coward where Sir Noel Coward was urbane, his poor, sad younger brother was uncouth, and where Noel found wit Kevin found only stuttering banality. Heads turned whenever Kevin entered a drawing room but only ever away from the stooping man in his soup-stained dinner jacket, whose entrance was invariably made on the hop as he struggled to remove the bicycle clips from his abbreviated evening trousers.

Nonetheless, Noel's inner circle always acknowledged that were it not for Kevin's skill as a plotter of plays, such gems as *Blithe Spirit* and *Private Lives* would never have seen the right side of a proscenium arch. Of course it was Noel, dear, clever Noel, who tarted up the dialogue and convinced Kevin that, for instance, the original version of *Brief Encounter* — in which Trevor Howard meets Celia Johnson waiting for a number 9 tram at the depot at Oswestry — lacked a little in the way of ton.

In the same way, it wasn't until

Hello Squidgy, this is Cleethorpes calling

PRIVATE LIFE: John Diamond gives some tips on scripts

Noel had taken his blue pencil to Kevin's *Dead Dogs and Englishmen* and *Don't Put Your Daughter on The Game* Mr Worthington that those songs became the cherished classics of the lyricist's art that we know today.

That Noel's success was founded, as it indubitably was, on Kevin's skill turned the unsung younger man into a bitter and broken drunkard. For a while Kevin was convinced he could make it on his own. He sent the film script of *In Which We Murders*, the story of an inept naval captain whose ships kept on getting torpedoed from under him, to a dozen studios before eventually allowing Noel to wield his pen: it was by way of rubbing in his brother's inadequacy that Noel took the lead part for himself.

But to the day he died last year in his Cleethorpes nursing home at the age of 92, young Kevin was

convinced that the script of *Princess in Purdah* would make it on its own merits, without any interference from Noel. The script was finished in 1956 and Kevin sent it off immediately to the great impresarios of Shaftesbury Avenue. Again and again it came back. Lowering his sights Kevin posted the now tattered script to the better rep companies. Still nobody wanted to know. He started sending it to impresarios around the country. The Alhambra in Tufnell Park, the Queen's Theatre in Walsall, the Palace of Varieties in Runcorn: no theatre was too small, every theatre returned the wretched script.

Eventually though, the week before he died, the Croydon with Penge Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society agreed that *Princess in Purdah* would be their



annual summer production for 1992. And it is the tape of that production that you will have heard if you phoned up the Dianagat Hotline number printed in *The Sun* last week. (Don't tell me you didn't phone the number: in sophisticated drawing rooms around the land you will hear the cries of

those who swear blind they've never seen a copy of *The Sun* in their lives but who have got "If you want to be like me, you have got to suffer" off pat.)

It is, after all, only Kevin Coward who could have composed lines like: "Squidgy, laugh some more. I love it when I hear you laughing. It makes me really happy when you laugh. Do you know I am happy when you are happy?" It has all the spurious intimacy of Noel Coward and all the leaden heavy-handedness of Kevin. And that woman's flat, atonal delivery: who else can it be but Tanya Hill-Higgins of the Croydon with Penge ADOS reading hesitantly and for the first time from a terminally dog-eared copy of Coward Jr's script?

Noel would surely have excised the dialogue which has the woman

convinced that she's persuaded the Bishop of Norwich of the reality of reincarnation and the stuff about being able to sniff out suffering: it was only poor Kevin who would believe people would actually talk like that even in private.

But the clincher, the one item that tells me that this is a Kevin Coward script rather than a real conversation is that word Squidgy. I have given and been given a few pet names in my time: we all have. I know a man who insists on referring to his slender and winsome wife as "Old Bean" and a woman who, in public, calls her wizened, elderly, bean pole of a husband "Tarzan", but "Squidgy" is so obviously an entirely fictional sobriquet.

I don't know whether you've ever tried to invent a fictional character for a novel, but it really is the hardest trick to find a name that is both convincing and at the same

time lacking in the resonance which will connect it to a real person. I always find myself coming up with names like Moplam or Gribbock which manage to be both unresonant and unconvincing. On the same basis I feel that if I had to find a pet name for a fictional character, Squidgy is the unconvincing name I'd come up with.

Only a Kevin Coward, though, would believe that a secret lover would not only use that name but apply it to a woman who earlier in the plot was revealed to have serious problems with her own body-image.

If you choose to believe that the conversation played over the phone is really between our future Queen and some used-car dealer with ideas above his station, it is a sad day for the monarchy. If, on the same hand, you honestly believe that a man could call any woman Squidgy and still have her giggle fawningly when he tells her that he loves her, then it is a great day for those who remember the late Kevin Coward. It is also the beginning of the end of British drama.

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Waxworks marching to the Marseillaise

Hilary Mantel's immense new production, dealing with the French Revolution in intermittently revisionist terms, prompts the question why we should read historical novels. Not to discover how things were, surely: if we do not already know, there are more reliable sources of information to draw on than fiction. This is the straightforward view, but Mantel challenges it. The facts about the past are so elusive, their status so uncertain, that an imaginative writer's presentation of them may be as persuasive as a historian's, and the historical novelist is pre-eminently equipped to provoke the shock of recognition that makes us see what we thought we knew in a different light. Furthermore, she insists, the strangest-seeming aspects of the story are the most likely to be true. This is tricky epistemology. Ordinary readers expect a balance to be struck between what, on the best evidence, actually happened, and

Angelica Goodden

A PLACE OF GREATER SAFETY
By Hilary Mantel
Viking, £15.99

generally acceptable notions of intelligibility. If the past is another country, it must not appear too foreign. So, reassuringly, *A Place of Greater Safety* gives us all the familiar scenes and vignettes along with lesser-known or invented ones. Marie-Antoinette is there, chafing for the simple life, wanting muslin and tulle à la Vigée-Le Brun rather than panniers and whalebones à la Rose Bertin; Marat is briefly glimpsed, only to be butchered in his bathtub à la David; the Princesse de Lamballe's head appears paraded on a pike by a populace lusting for aristocratic blood; and so on. The end of the novel approaches parody in its

breathless rehearsing of the great set-piece events.

The trouble with all this is that the familiar moments — much more compellingly presented than the unfamiliar — add nothing to Mantel's revisionist story of the Revolution, namely that its political energies had as much to do with sex as with other assertions of power. She is content to present the town (in a disjointed, interrupted fashion which readers may find annoying) as though all that mattered were its identification: flattery to us, possibly, but contributing nothing to our deeper understanding. *A Place of Greater Safety* falls short of its author's professed intentions when it fails to provoke the profounder kind of recognition — not "Oh, there's the Tennis Court Oath (again)", but "So that's what the Tennis Court Oath was".

The reality that historical fiction attempts to convey is not necessarily this profound, but even on a less ambitious level it may be compro-



Hilary Mantel: grand sweepster

mised. The flavour of a period pervasively resists translation. Films and plays show us obstinately up-to-date people, modernly lit and made up; they never have the air of the past. In novels, speech is a more evident giveaway, because we can consider and judge it at leisure. Dialogue in *A Place of Greater*

Safety is an unhappy blend of the archaic and the contemporary, peppered with jargon and often smacking of the French-English dictionary — that stiff, cloed language nobody ever quite spoke.

But not all the novel is disfigured by such awkwardness, and Mantel does many things well. The characterisation is generally convincing. Desmoulins is shown as a romantic rebel, moodily and modishly ambivalent; Danton as part boor and part visionary; Robespierre as an ascetic recluse. The women, though, lack all conviction. The narrative is spare and confident. The story is, as one would expect, exciting. But is it one story or several? Dealing into the public and private lives of her enormous cast, the author never appears quite sure. Oddly, given the length of the book, she seems nervous of attempting the sustained analysis of mind and motive which is the novel's special strength: the thought, whether political or social,

tails off as tantalisingly as the paragraphs.

A Place of Greater Safety finally strikes one as more of a collage than a unified composition, cinematographically (and trendily) discontinuous, failing to add up to the single grand statement its author had in mind. The background of the revolution, obviously meant to confer that grandeur, dissolves into cliché and the novel reads less as history than as history-lesson. It is crammed with information, more or less knowingly presented, and clearly takes a certain pride in the fact. In other ways, too, it sometimes appears forced, its self-conscious snapshots irritating rather than enlightening.

Above all, the book falls short as drama. The huge gallery of characters is just that, a gallery instead of a living cast of interacting individuals. This is a novel with striking pictorial strengths, but it is more a succession of tableaux than an integrated narrative. The dramatic

personae, in the strict sense of the phrase, are consequently ineffectual, frozen into stills and divorced from the sphere of action. Therein lies a paradox, given the world-shaking occurrences the novel describes, but it is hardly the one the author intended.

For all the pages she covers and the multifarious events she relates, Mantel gives little sense of what the revolution really was — a complex web of desires and resistances, socially diverse in its origin and various in its aims. She shows the muddled motives of her characters, but not the incoherence of the mass in whose name they acted. The scale of her novel would have been justified if its canvas had been more amply filled: if it had been (Davidian) history painting rather than portraiture. As it is, the guillotine should probably have been pressed into service.

Angelica Goodden is a fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford.

Rationing a nation's pride

Peter Hennessy's history of the Attlee era concludes that the British became kinder. Enoch Powell thinks we lost our nerve

Despite its title page, this is the first of a projected three volumes covering the story of Britain from 1945 to 2000. It extends to only the first six of those years; but never mind. For one thing, it is nice to find yourself once again in the presence of Peter Hennessy's efficient and antiseptic mind. Even more important, those great mental convulsions through which Britain lived in the second half of this century, were already implicit in Britain in the world of 1945 to 1951.

With those mental convulsions my own political life has been wrapped up. So naturally I turned to find the beginnings of them in Hennessy's pages. I ought not to have been surprised to be disappointed. Hennessy was born in 1947, I in 1912; and he and I are helpless to escape the consequences.

There are still a few years to go to 2000. But it is not absurdly premature to put my own cards face up on the table. Britain in the years after 1945 underestimated itself disastrously, something strange perhaps for a country which had just emerged victorious from its greatest war, and yet explicable.

The sheer scale of the American war effort after 1942 caused the British to conclude that the victory had been America's, not theirs: the crucial significance of Germany's inability to invade and occupy the British Isles in 1940 had by 1945 and has since been overlaid and obliterated by the subsequent course of events which followed upon the American war objective of "unconditional surrender". The British concluded that they were henceforth destined, if they were

wise, to be the junior partners and satellites of the United States. (If you want to know what I mean by those opprobrious terms, you need only watch the footwork of Britain's prime minister in 1992).

Connected with, and reinforcing, this conclusion was another, factually better founded. The dissolution of the British Empire — of the colonial and Indian empires, that is to say — into independent self-governing nations was foreseeable and in that sense imminent. The self-perception of the United Kingdom as great, and great because worldwide and imperial, had disappeared; and the disappearance of that self-perception precipitated a kind of nervous breakdown. If Britain was no longer great, then Britain was no longer unique, no longer itself, no longer different.

Along with obsolete ballast, there was then no problem about throwing overboard the precious self-government — parliamentary self-government — of a hitherto invincible state. Britain was henceforward a component and subordinate part of an American empire, known popularly as "the West", and ripe for formal amalgamation into the European wing of that empire.

Hennessy's epic is not a denigratory book. He has felt, and he is prepared to use 500 pages to celebrate, the quality of the nation he belongs to; but somewhere across the gulf between 1912 and 1947 he and I have lost one

another. I do not mean to be petty if I place under the magnifying-glass the sentence where he describes how in September 1976: "I began to fear for my country's long-term future with an intensity I had never felt before in what were then my 29 years of citizenship."

September 1976 is another anniversary too. It was in September 1940 that Hitler, like Napoleon striking camp at Boulogne after the Battle of Trafalgar, called *Operation Sea Lion* off and wheeled away eastwards to Russia and destruction. The Battle of Britain, won visibly by the RAF and invisibly by the Royal Navy, was the victory which settled the outcome of the second world war and the enduring balance of power in Europe. Neither the United States nor the Japanese, whose collision with one another sent Churchill happy with relief to bed on December 7, 1941, were on the field at that decisive victory.

Here at any rate is how Hennessy describes his "fear for my country's long-term future" in 1976: "I had come to the simple but comforting conclusion that no people changes beyond recognition in 36 years and that if the British people would endure what Hitler threw at them in 1940 they could endure anything the international financial community and a faltering economy might inflict."

We can "endure", that is to say, the consequences of maintaining a fixed exchange rate for the pound sterling and a run of disappointing international economic statistics. Hennessy turned out to be right: we endured the ending of the Bretton Woods currency system, forerunner of the ERM. And here we are again in 1992 ready, but for the inspira-



INCITEMENT TO BIGAMY?

Low's shotgun marriage, 1950: a reminder that much debate on the Maastricht Treaty echoes conflicts that were familiar to Attlee

tion of our "finest hour", to be hustled into the same subordination into which Lords Callaghan and Healey took us in 1976. What has happened? What has gone wrong?

The answer fails to emerge from Hennessy's *Never Again* — the history of the erection in 1945-51 of a welfare state which is only now in course of being reorganised. That welfare state, however, had one characteristic which just might

be relevant. The financial instrument for extracting and delivering the necessary massive resources turned out to be inflation, which thus replaced the wartime physical allocation system and which worked away steadily and benignly during the years of the 1945-51 administration, watched and tended, not without grim humour, by a complacently optimistic Treasury and reinforced by the volume of new government debt created

through nationalisation. That is a topic which deserved more sustained and separate treatment and analysis.

It appears possible that the measures, psychological and practical, which have been adopted by one government after another to control the inflation which their own budgeting and borrowing were creating had a causal connection with that sense of dejection and failure, in comparison especially

with other countries, that has been the prevalent mood of Britain in the greater part of the last half century. I hope that in the second or third instalment of his social and economic history of "Britain without an empire" Peter Hennessy will find the incentive and curiosity to explore further the theme to which his own emotional reaction to the 1976 instalment of Britain's continuing saga of "falling" might seem to point him.

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Waterside
Book of the
Month
The English Patient

Great cares of our mothers

The Ik of Uganda are "probably the most unpleasant people an anthropologist has ever had to study", remarks Sheila Kitzinger in this, the latest in a long line of books on childbirth and child rearing with which over the years she has blazed a brilliant trail for despairing Western women. Ik mothers "shrugged their shoulders when a baby was devoured by a wild animal and urged the men to kill the animal, as it would now be fat from eating the baby and so make a good meal."

Setting aside the possibility that the Ik might in truth be rather amusing types with a brand of black humour that does not rule out pulling the legs of visiting anthropologists, Kitzinger's condemnation of Ik practice is as nothing compared with her outraged loathing of nearly everything done around, for and to mothers and babies in what she terms "the West", and anything done by Western male doctors in particular.

The subtitle of the book is *The universal experience of motherhood* and according to Kitzinger, this experience has dignity and pride everywhere except here, in "the West". The noble home-learned childbirth practices of mothers from non-industrial societies all over the world are being eroded by the forces of technological, male-driven medicine. Pregnant women are herded into impersonal hospitals where they and their babies are subjected to pointless, humiliating, frightening, and indeed counter-productive practices. It is all a plot by men to take over women's great source of power, the power to give birth.

Kitzinger's problem, with this thesis is that she has herself helped to make it out-of-date. There cannot be a

doctor left in Britain who would deny out loud that it is easier for a woman to give birth if she can move about freely and crouch or squat if she wants to.

When Kitzinger's fire is scattered across the subjects of mothers with careers and whether the "New Man" really exists, it becomes erratic and wild. So her righteous rage may not even see her baby, which is given vigorous reassertion that is likely to do more harm than good.

The mothers may only touch their babies with fingers painted with iodine and feeding is on the cruel and stupid four-hourly rule which has long been discredited in Britain. In a vilely comic finale to the nightmare, the Russian mother and baby (swaddled like an Egyptian mummy) are presented to their relations in a ceremonial room resembling "the parlour of an American funeral home" decorated with a stained-glass picture of a mother and child. Soft music plays, photos are taken, flowers presented and a pre-recorded "lyric female voice" greets the "little citizen" with the national anthem. One warns to the dear old Ik.

At the other end of the spectrum, Kitzinger finds "the prototype for family and home-centred maternity care" in the "naaa", the friendly midwife of a typical Jamaican village.

Sarah Johnson

OURSELVES AS
MOTHERS
By Sheila Kitzinger
Doubleday, £16.99



Love, a 1921 woodcut by M.C. Escher in *Escher: The Complete Graphic Work*. Thames and Hudson, paperback, £19.95

on Pavlovian theory, to use these techniques in order to control herself and not make a fuss. So she lies biting her lips, moaning quietly, or writhing in silent agony.

When it is judged that it is time for the baby to be born, she must climb on a table, and there is a hurried, violent delivery. She cannot hold and may not even see her baby, which is given vigorous reassertion that is likely to do more harm than good.

This is a pity. Doubtless, as she claims, perinatal deaths in Victorian Britain rose when male doctors took over from female midwives. But my own grandmother was killed in the 1920s by puerperal fever caused — during a homebirth — by a careless (female) midwife. A few years later, as it happened, my husband's grandfather, as a young doctor, did groundbreaking research which helped found puerperal fever off the map. In the 1990s my children were born Kitzinger-style, without drugs and in line with gravity — in a friendly, NHS hospital. Wonderful Mrs Kitzinger, we owe you much — but progress is not all bad, and you are a part of it.

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THE TIMES

Great and

Barset discovers corsets

Trollope wrote the best life of himself and Caroline Moore, an addict, thought there was little more to learn — until she read Victoria Glendinning's latest book

I came to this biography of Trollope with unreasonably high expectations. They were amply fulfilled. A biography of Trollope might seem to impose extraordinary demands from the sheer bulk of material to be assimilated. The details of a busy public life co-exist with what Henry James sneeringly dubbed the "gross fertility" of Trollope's creative output: 47 novels, numerous short stories and several travel-books and biographies, all churned out at a rate that produced regular log-jams of unused material at his publishers. Then, too, there is that amorphous mass loosely described as "background", which has no beginning and no end, but which is particularly essential for the sort of biography Victoria Glendinning has written — warmly interested not only in opinions, but in their cultural context.

All this makes Trollope a tough proposition, but not unique. What we have come to expect from Victoria Glendinning, however, is not just assimilation of enormous amounts of fascinating and disparate material, but the creation from it of a work as readable, richly shifting and well-shaped as a good novel. And this is what she has again achieved.

In many biographies, one feels the biographer's imagination to be fettered by the demands of historical narrative, the need to plod with their subject from birth to death via the laundry-lists of every-day life. Glendinning never loses sight of her ordering chronological structure, but the shaping of this book, rich in digression, comment and background information, testifies to the unreasonable qualities necessary for the best biographers: imagination, wit, warmth and easy elegance.

This is the fourth Trollope biography in the last five years; yet it is indeed, as Victoria Glendinning states, "unlike the others". She modestly suggests that "sex, or at any rate gender, may account for the difference". Fortunately, that has not led her to impose a particularly feminist slant.

Indeed, one of the few errors I could detect in this compendiously well-informed work concerned Victorian campaigners for women's rights. Barbara Bodichon did not, as Glendinning claims, "support Caroline Norton's fight for a Married Woman's Property Act, which became law in 1857". Caroline Norton's Divorce Bill, which was put forward at the same time and in direct competition with the more radical Married Women's Property Bill promoted by Barbara Bodichon, called only for rights for the minority of women who were separated from their husbands. The majority of married women had to wait until the Acts of 1870, 1882 and 1893 for recognition of their legal status.

Glendinning's "feminine" angle could perhaps be better described as richly human. There is a stress upon "family dynamics" — Trollope's relationships with his dominant mother, his despairing father, and the mean and aggressive elder brother his mother preferred as confidant: a deep but somewhat thwarted curiosity about his wife, Rose; a fascination with the representation of women in his fiction.

Trollope's public face is, as Glendinning writes in her introduction, one of a "traditionally bluff, dabbish, roast-beef kind of masculinity". His contemporaries found him boorish, blundering and noisily insensitive: "a great, homely, red, stupid-faced English man, with a disgusting beard of

TROLLOPE
By Victoria Glendinning
Hutchinson, £20

iron grey", as one crushing young lady put it. His opinions were often crass: "The necessity of the supremacy of man [over woman] is as certain to me as the eternity of the soul." Or again: "The Australian black... has to go. That he should perish without unnecessary suffering should be the aim of all who are concerned in the matter."

This, of course, is stereotypical Victorian masculinity only if you use "stereotype" in its usual present-day function, to mean "a distorted caricature of all that modern taste dislikes". But poor Trollope was often caricaturable, both in appearance and manners: the comendrum Glendinning sets herself is how this loud, obstreperous man could be capable of such "extraordinary insight into the hearts of men, and, even more extraordinary, of women".

Part of her answer is to explain how Trollope came by his public manner, which was a thick-skinned act to mask a morbidly thin-skinned insecurity. His boyhood, as he wrote, was "as unhappy as that of a young gentleman could well be". His father was an unsuccessful lawyer, given to bilious headaches and moody gloom. When his expectations of inheriting the family property were thwarted, he slid into black resentment, inertia and depression.

Trollope's mother, Fanny, provided vitality, fun and enterprise, but he did not see her between the ages of 12 and 16: she left for America, with three of her six children, at the start of her life-long struggle to restore the family fortunes. Anthony, left at home with a depressive father, was horribly bullied at school. His sense of unattractiveness and profound failure never left him.

The easy warmth of Ireland thawed him from his misery. He was sent as a surveyor's clerk and brought away a love of hunting and an offensively boisterous social manner which lasted the rest of his life. He also met his wife, Rose, who remains a shadowy figure. We learn little beyond the fact that she had pretty feet and prematurely white hair. Glendinning is convinced that she must be central to Trollope's life, if only because "the nature of marriage and the balance of power between the sexes" are central to his fiction; but in the absence of other evidence she turns to the fiction to reconstruct his marriage, which has difficulties.

Can we take Trollope's authorial generalisations about women to reflect the nature of his own wife? This is especially dubious if we accept Glendinning's own view that his public pronouncements were not his own, "real" self, whose depths, subtleties and ambiguities are revealed through the particularities of his fiction. And in these alternative dream-worlds, of course, we meet nearly as many different marriages, good and bad, as there are married couples.

This is the only place where effort shows. Elsewhere, this biography is remarkable for the convincing ease with which Glendinning moves between Trollope's fiction and his life. For passionate Trollope buffs, the extracts provide the constant pleasure of recognition; but there are delights for all.

Writing this book, as



Glendinning beguilingly tells us, she learnt what Trollope thought "about flirting, democracy, politics, age and ageing, digestion, Christmas, art and architecture, crinolines, hair-styles, dancing, wine, gardens, bad smells, illness and insanity, cigars, male friendships, spiritualism, women's teeth, and the way dinner should be served". Most of this she passes on, with delightful snippets of additional information. We learn that during the Irish famine the Duke of Norfolk proposed that the poor should consume curry powder mixed with water "on which he appeared to believe the population of India was nourished"; that the phrases "something in the city" and "the new dispensation" passed into our language from *The Way We Live Now*; that Victorian coal merchants invented an "early manifestation of junk mail"; that the Victorians boiled their carrots for over an hour; that the Great Exhibition included a pair of cuffs "hand-spun and knitted, from the wool of French poodle dogs". We learn that Trollope's "beard was a repository for fragments of cigar ash", and thence arrive at a short digression on the influence of the Crimean war upon the fashion for whiskers.

As for female fashions, there are memorable digressions upon Trollope's obsession with female hairstyles — especially the vast false chignons of the 1860s, under which the wearer's real hair was sleeked back, seldom washed, and made glossy with pomade — and his dislike of the crinoline (a "misshapen, dirty mass of battered wirework", which nevertheless offered the exciting possibility that any sudden, unladylike movement would make it swing up, and reveal legs). Perhaps this infectious delight in the trivia of history could be seen as essentially feminine; but perhaps the best biographers, whatever their sex, possess the supposedly female traits of boundless human curiosity and a boundless appetite for detailed gossip.

Antiquary of Manhattan life

John C. Hawley

LETTER FROM NEW YORK

By Helene Hanff
Aurum Press, £12.95

As a young American girl, Helene Hanff dreamed for years of visiting "the England of English literature". When that dream failed to materialise she began a 20-year correspondence by mail with an employee of Marks & Company, an antiquarian bookstore. When he suddenly died in 1969, Hanff wrote *84, Charing Cross Road*, her account of their friendship. This little book transformed her life. Her first dream came true when she travelled to London for publication day. The BBC adapted the book for television. Then it became a hit in the West End.

Because of these successes, and her obvious love of England, Hanff was asked to introduce the British to her America. And this book is a compilation of the five-minute, once-a-month BBC radio programmes the author broadcast from America from 1978 to 1984. They are a bit like Alistair Cooke, but less philosophical and far more localised. Hanff speaks not so much about the American character, if there is such a beast, as about the far-more-idiosyncratic denizens roaming her favourite city.

Many entries, in fact, focus even more obsessively on the residents of her apartment building and, too often, on her apartment itself. The result is something like cabin fever, a certain claustrophobia that may encourage the reader to run outdoors.

To be fair, Hanff herself frequently does just that, bringing us in tow as she wanders from her home on East 72nd — the Upper East Side of Manhattan, a rather posh, but nonetheless cramped quadrant — through the wide-open spaces of Central Park, across town

to the land of the "yuppies" on the West Side, down for a very quick foray into the bohemian Village, and back by way of the various ethnic parades that march up Fifth Avenue almost every weekend.

She describes her neighbourhood, plunked down in the financial capital of the Western hemisphere, as "the last small town in America", and therein lies the city's cosy attraction for Hanff. She has created for herself a familiar set of surroundings in an otherwise anonymous and often brutalising landscape. She makes wonderful friends whose lives matter to her. That she succeeds so splendidly provides the book's remarkable sense of joy and victory.

That, and the dogs. Hanff is a dog-lover — not of the worst kind, but definitely an enthusiast. They people her book, so be forewarned or enticed. But this hints at my quibble with what is otherwise an enjoyable and light-hearted introduction to those many people who cannot get enough of the city many fear and loathe: Hanff is too upbeat, a one-woman Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau.

I lived in New York during several of the years she records, and I, too, love the city. But there is more to New York than meets Hanff's eye, and that "more" is the homeless, the filthy, the wandering lives that are going nowhere.

Crimes beyond punishment

Mary Ann Sieghart

TELLING ONLY LIES
By Jessica Mann
Hutchinson, £13.99

Jessica Mann is a crime writer who, with *Telling Only Lies*, has embarked on her first "serious" novel. Anne Medlicott, her heroine, is a historical novelist who is persuaded by her agents and friends to write a "real" book. It is hard to tell where autobiography blends into fiction. That indeed is the theme of this book.

Medlicott, of Jewish descent but who claims to "feel English through and through", is the daughter of two refugees from Nazism. She tries to deny her past until it creeps up behind her and bangs her on the head. Inadvertently, on a television chat show, she defames a British aristocrat by reading his name off a list of Englishmen who might have collaborated with the Nazis in the event of an invasion. In order to avoid vast damages, she is forced to research into this man's past in an effort to prove the truth of her claim. She decides to use the research as the basis for the great book, but discovers that her own past is bound up with his.

Jessica Mann has chosen a fascinating and original subject and era: the novel is evocative both of the lives of German Jewish refugees in late 1930s London and of Nazi-sympathising Britons in Germany. Anne's mother is forced to work as a waitress in a teashop frequented by émigrés. Her father, a budding writer, has to work as a freelance butler.

Meanwhile, the Hon Julian Whitchurch (he of the alleged slander) and Sir Douglas Dugdale are whooping it up with the likes of Baron Hubertus von Bessulf and his sister, Marianne, classic Aryan specimens both. Witnessing both societies at work is Celia Roger, a naive but ambitious, blue-stocking junior diplomat at the British embassy in Berlin.

The problem lies not in the subject matter but in its treatment. As a straightforward detective story, *Telling Only Lies* does not pass muster. Why does Anne Medlicott not question the only man who is likely to know what she needs to find out until the very end of the book? When the dénouement comes, it happens so fast that it almost trips up on itself.

As a "serious" novel, the book has its flaws too. The characters are too poorly delineated and their development unexplained. Ordinary crime writing does not require character development over decades, and Jessica Mann's lack of experience here shows. Despite these faults, *Telling Only Lies* has promise; though sketchily written, it is an easy and evocative read.

Via dolorosa

Natasha Fairweather

CITY OF GATES
By Janice Elliott
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99

Jerusalem has always exercised an extraordinary hold over the imagination. For some it is a metaphor, for others a memory. Janice Elliott is treading in well-worn literary footsteps in choosing to confine her twenty-third novel, *City of Gates*, within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem. She should have trodden more carefully.

Daisy Herbert has come to Jerusalem from England for reasons which she cannot quite define. It soon becomes apparent however, that she is in search of love; and it shows. Every man — a homosexual Anglican priest, Gideon the "macho... Israeli warrior", and Thomas Curtis who, in retracing the pilgrimage of a spiritually troubled ancestor, is seeking to discover his own sexual and religious orientation — falls for her red hair and transparent skin.

But the course of love never did run smooth: and in this novel outrageous good fortune always comes disguised as bad luck. Thomas Curtis needs to spend time imprisoned in a dank underground cellar before he realises that Daisy, and not the monastery, is his calling. On cue, Daisy is conveniently kidnapped and thrown into his cell and his arms, where they just have time to conduct the "ritual full of grace" of courtship, before an earthquake contrives to free them.

Striving for neutrality on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Elliott has made an Armenian the villain of the piece. Kalfayan is an unscrupulous pederast with a suppurating

eye who will do anything for money. He turns from selling drugs to selling Arab houses to Jews, an even greater social evil in Jerusalem where every act warrants political and religious interpretation. Rumour has it that Kalfayan is the anti-Christ, in which case the arrival of the Messiah must be imminent. The dead buried on the Mount of Olives lumber up in anticipation of Judgement Day while the three Messiahs of Judaism, Christianity and Islam wait impatiently in Gethsemane.

In the end, *City of Gates* presents a thoroughly Christian vision. A happy ending is assured for all (except presumably for the three Messiahs) when Mary, the long-term lodger at Madame Muna's guest house, repeats the miracle of the Virgin Birth. The birth of the new Messiah does not herald peace. "It is just a good story".

The same cannot be said of *City of Gates* where the combination of contemporary verisimilitude and extravagant, often religiously motivated, fantasy does not work. Crucial issues of religion, race and politics are raised only to founder in sentimentalism. Moments of acute observation and humour, as in the portrait of the warring Christian factions, are all too rare.

Sons and lovers, fact and fiction.

'Sons and Lovers', Lawrence's classic novel, is now published for the first time complete and uncensored. After nearly 80 years his book is finally available as he wrote it. £14.95. Cambridge University Press.



John Worthen's acclaimed biography, *D.H. Lawrence, The Early Years 1885-1912* is now available in paperback. Drawing on a wide range of previously unpublished sources, it describes Lawrence's early life and relationships. £12.95. Cambridge University Press.

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John Maddox

ODYSSEY
The authorised biography
of Arthur C. Clarke
By Neil McAleer
Gollancz, £16.99



Clarke: scuba to satellites

That, no doubt, is what the publishers of Neil McAleer's authorised version of Clarke's life must have calculated. But McAleer has let them down. Does Clarke believe himself to be a philosopher of the future, or an excellent imaginative writer about space and related matters? And what really went wrong with Clarke's only marriage, which lasted for less than six months? Why, really, did he settle in Sri Lanka? These and other pertinent questions are never asked.

People read biographies because they want a better understanding of their subjects than can be had merely by reading their published

works. Yet apart from the first few chapters, which are a vivid account of Clarke's youth, McAleer's tape-recorded interviews with people as different as Walter Cronkite and Carl Sagan (including no fewer than 100 with Clarke himself) have produced a chronology rather than

a biography. Even the concluding chapter, which purports to offer an assessment of Clarke's probable influence on the contemporary world, consists mostly of adulatory quotations from the tape-recorded archive McAleer has assiduously compiled.

This is a misfortune, for the book starts out well. Clarke was born in Somerset in 1917. His father, then at the war, afterwards threw in his job as a postmaster to become an unsuccessful farmer and died when Clarke was 13, leaving the young lad the streak of personal insecurity still recognisable as the grown man's modest demeanour. The young Clarke had a great range of obsessions — dinosaurs, "writing stories", building rocket-like fireworks and collecting science fiction.

Eventually he became a minor civil servant while moonlighting as a freelance writer. He belonged to a small group of young men nursing interplanetary dreams and, in 1941, he enlisted in the RAF in the hope of learning about celestial navigation. He learned radar in-

stead, whence the detailed argument on which his advocacy of communications satellites was eventually based.

Unselfconsciously, for McAleer is an American, the book is a wry comment on the way that Britain dealt with bright people such as Clarke after the second world war. By luck, he got himself a science degree after demobilisation, and found himself an assistant editor of *Physics Abstracts*, a British enterprise run by the Institution of Electrical Engineers devoted to publishing abstracts of every scholarly article in the physics and related fields. But Clarke kept on writing fiction and discovered that he preferred the insecure pleasures and profits of the freelance life.

That, sadly, is where the book degenerates into a blend of chronology and travelogue. The occasional thrills improbably come in McAleer's accounts of Clarke's wrangling with literary agents and publishers.

John Maddox is editor of *Nature*

Arthur C. Clarke is best known for the book on which Stanley Kubrick's film *2001: A Space Odyssey* was based. He is, perhaps, most distinguished for having advocated in 1945 the idea that satellites would be the ideal means of arranging for global telecommunications. Clarke has also been a prolific writer of science fiction, of serious tracts describing the potential benefits of space exploration and, improbably, a proselytiser of (or apologist for) scuba diving. A leading light in the British Interplanetary Society, he appears to have coined the word "astronaut".

Clarke is a hugely friendly man, much liked by those who know him. He is an atheist: his view of the universe is optimistic (he believes the existence of life elsewhere in the universe is a near-certainty) and he has acquired the reputation among his acolytes of being a philosopher. For three decades, Clarke has lived in Sri Lanka.

So should there not be a rattling good biography in such a subject?

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Executive share-outs that shrank away

Back in the bull market of the late 1980s, executive share options were often the most attractive benefit with key jobs, providing senior employees with big rewards.

In today's volatile market, when many recently matured options are "under water" because their value is now less than their exercise price, employees talk of "papering their walls" with apparently worthless option certificates; executive options seem to have lost their gloss.

"Thanks for nothing" sums up the reaction of some employees, whose recently matured options are now seen as worthless. One employee of a big company says: "I thought that I was fortunate to be given an option in 1988 on 10,000 shares at 231p and I looked forward to making enough on them to buy my daughter a car this year. They are now worth less than 140p. A colleague made £5,000 last year, and it makes me feel a little bitter."

However, a senior BP executive says: "All that has happened is that with some options, the chance to make a short-term gain has been post-

Employees once sought share options. But Anna Moore finds the sums do not always add up to a benefit

poned. Options have a life of ten years and, unless you are about to retire, under some schemes there are seven years in which to hope that share prices recover."

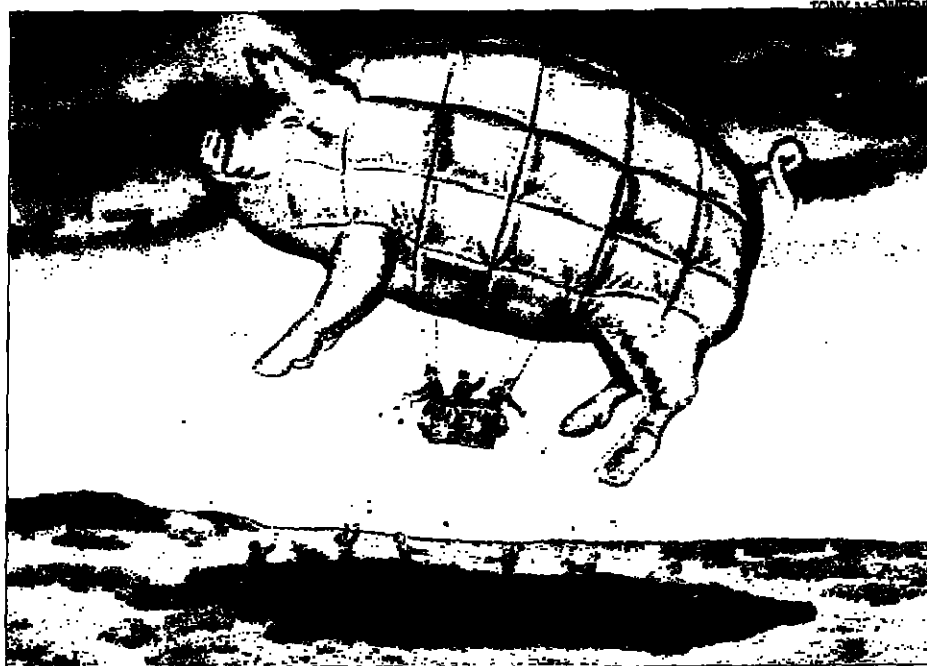
While losing out on a long awaited windfall is undoubtedly discouraging, Paul Norris, of MM&K, remuneration advisers, says: "In most cases, share option schemes have been regarded solely as deferred-cash bonuses when in fact they were really a useful means for executives to become long-term shareholders with the feeling of 'ownership' that shares can bring."

With share options still firmly embedded in the corporate psyche, several of the UK's leading companies are now looking at other possibilities. Some of the new schemes unveiled in their latest annual reports could have an important impact on the development of executive share incentives, according to David

Tankel, a director of New Bridge Street Consultants, which advises some of Britain's top companies on share ownership schemes.

Mr Tankel says: "The key themes of the new schemes are the desire to encourage long-term share ownership by executives and the fact that they are required to invest their own funds in company shares."

Under BP's performance-related scheme, for example, executives must maintain a substantial personal shareholding in the company (excluding share options) during the five-year performance period. If the growth in the value of the company's shares at the end of that period has outperformed some or all of BP's main competitors, executives may be awarded shares that would normally be held in trust on their behalf for five years. This is designed to produce more permanent executive shareholders, who stand to



lose money if the company fails to perform well in the medium term. The significance of recent initiatives lies in the status of the companies adopting them.

The Prudential Corporation, for example, which has

issued detailed guidelines on conventional executive and employee-share schemes, has introduced a scheme enabling key executives to choose their bonus in shares rather than cash. If the executive chooses shares, the company will

match the amount invested on a one-for-one basis, on condition that the shares are not sold for at least five years.

Other recent initiatives include restricted share schemes, under which employees receive shares immediately at no

cost to themselves, but which are subject to restrictions on their disposal, and may be forfeited if the employee leaves the company before a certain time, rather than receiving options to buy shares at today's price in the future and sell them immediately afterwards.

Generally, savings-related share-ownership schemes still appear fairly attractive. Marks & Spencer, for instance, claims to have had the highest take-up ever last September of its savings-related share-option scheme, which has been operating since 1981.

Tony Long, the manager of shareholder services at M & S, says: "We tend to encourage share ownership and both our profit-sharing and savings-related schemes are popular. More than 60 per cent of our UK employees participate in our scheme."

On most share-savings schemes, employees are unlikely to lose out. They can save between £10 and a maximum of £250 a month for a fixed period — either five or seven years, with a tax-free bonus and either take the money in cash or buy shares. When they enter the scheme, they are

given options to buy shares at the end of the savings period at the price, often minus discount of up to 20 per cent quoted when they start saving. If the current share price is higher than the option price they can make a profit. If it is lower, they can withdraw the savings and bonus.

Mr Tankel says the schemes introduced by M & S and others, however, show that share options schemes are not the only form of share-based reward for executives. "In some cases they can be supplemented or replaced by more flexible schemes," he explains. "Executive share options are usually a good benefit and can generate substantial capital sums — but there is no guarantee."

Mr Norris adds: "Golden handcuffs are on the move from share-option to long term cash-accumulation plans. More companies now recognise the advantages of focusing executive attention on the levers leading to company success rather than the 'Russian roulette' of a fluctuating company share price."

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The conference will be held at The CBI, 105 New Oxford Street, London WC1A. For credit card bookings and a full conference agenda, please contact Karen Trevett, Conference Administrator. CBI Conferences at the above address, Tel: 071 579 7400 Fax: 071 497 3640

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Place of work: Brussels.

Qualifications: applicants must: ☐ be nationals of one of the Member States of the Community; ☐ have a university degree, preferably in engineering; ☐ have at least twelve years' graduate-level experience since obtaining the above degree, including at least five years' experience in the field of nuclear energy; ☐ have a thorough knowledge and proven experience of the various fields covered by the Euratom Treaty; ☐ have appropriate knowledge of Community policy for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; have the skills needed to participate in meetings and negotiations at international level; ☐ have a thorough knowledge of one of the official Community languages and a satisfactory knowledge of a second; a good knowledge of English and French would be an asset; ☐ have been born after 30.06.1941.

• QUALIFIED ADMINISTRATOR
(A7/6) - (Ref. 57T/92/II)

Directorate-General: Economic and Financial Affairs. Monetary Matters, Analysis and Development of ECU Markets.

Duties: in the context of EMU, monitoring and interpreting trends on ECU markets, contributing to the development of private use of the ECU and to the preparation of technical measures for transition to stage three; providing information for commercial, banking and financial operators.

Place of work: Brussels.

Qualifications: applicants must: ☐ be nationals of one of the Member States of the Community; ☐ have a university degree; ☐ have at least two years' graduate-level experience since obtaining the above degree in a financial or banking institution represented on one of the main international financial markets. This experience should have been particularly in analysing trends on the various ECU markets and interpreting the impact of macro-economic events and political factors on this market; ☐ have a sound knowledge of the history and mechanisms of the EMS, the ECU and EMU; ☐ have a knowledge of PC programmes; ☐ have a thorough knowledge of one of the official Community languages and a satisfactory knowledge of a second; in addition to English and/or French, a very good knowledge of German (written and spoken) is desirable; ☐ have been born after 30.06.1956.

• ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
(B7/3) - (Ref. 58T/92/OS)

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Place of work: Luxembourg.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BORE, GRACE NELLIE BORE
Secretary late of 30 Ealing Road, London E19 died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £45,000)
NORRIS, ELIZABETH COLE
Wayfarer late of 1700 High Road, North London, died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £13,000)
EVERETT, ALBERT
Everett late of 1700 High Road, North London, died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £12,000)
GLOVER, KATHLEEN GLOVER
Secretary late of 30 Ealing Road, London E19 died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £45,000)
JONES, GRACE NELLIE BORE
Secretary late of 30 Ealing Road, London E19 died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £45,000)
NORTON, ERIC NORTON
Secretary late of 30 Ealing Road, London E19 died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £45,000)
PRICE, FRANK
Secretary late of 30 Ealing Road, London E19 died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £45,000)
NORRIS, ELIZABETH COLE
Wayfarer late of 1700 High Road, North London, died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £13,000)
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Secretary late of 30 Ealing Road, London E19 died there on 28th Nov 1991. (Estate about £45,000)

LEGAL NOTICES

COMMERCIAL SQUARE LIMITED
In Administrative Receivership
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 75 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the shareholders of the above named company will be held at Kings Court, 110 Strand, London WC2R 2JF, on 11 September 1992 at 10.00 am. The business to be transacted at the meeting is as follows: (a) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1991 to 10 September 1992; (b) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1992 to 10 September 1993; (c) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1993 to 10 September 1994; (d) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1994 to 10 September 1995; (e) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1995 to 10 September 1996; (f) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1996 to 10 September 1997; (g) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1997 to 10 September 1998; (h) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1998 to 10 September 1999; (i) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 1999 to 10 September 2000; (j) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2000 to 10 September 2001; (k) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2001 to 10 September 2002; (l) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2002 to 10 September 2003; (m) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2003 to 10 September 2004; (n) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2004 to 10 September 2005; (o) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2005 to 10 September 2006; (p) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2006 to 10 September 2007; (q) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2007 to 10 September 2008; (r) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2008 to 10 September 2009; (s) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2009 to 10 September 2010; (t) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2010 to 10 September 2011; (u) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2011 to 10 September 2012; (v) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2012 to 10 September 2013; (w) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2013 to 10 September 2014; (x) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2014 to 10 September 2015; (y) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2015 to 10 September 2016; (z) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2016 to 10 September 2017; (aa) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2017 to 10 September 2018; (ab) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2018 to 10 September 2019; (ac) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2019 to 10 September 2020; (ad) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2020 to 10 September 2021; (ae) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2021 to 10 September 2022; (af) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2022 to 10 September 2023; (ag) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2023 to 10 September 2024; (ah) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2024 to 10 September 2025; (ai) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2025 to 10 September 2026; (aj) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2026 to 10 September 2027; (ak) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2027 to 10 September 2028; (al) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2028 to 10 September 2029; (am) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2029 to 10 September 2030; (an) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2030 to 10 September 2031; (ao) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2031 to 10 September 2032; (ap) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2032 to 10 September 2033; (aq) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2033 to 10 September 2034; (ar) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2034 to 10 September 2035; (as) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2035 to 10 September 2036; (at) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2036 to 10 September 2037; (au) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2037 to 10 September 2038; (av) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2038 to 10 September 2039; (aw) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2039 to 10 September 2040; (ax) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2040 to 10 September 2041; (ay) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2041 to 10 September 2042; (az) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2042 to 10 September 2043; (ba) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2043 to 10 September 2044; (bb) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2044 to 10 September 2045; (bc) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2045 to 10 September 2046; (bd) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2046 to 10 September 2047; (be) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2047 to 10 September 2048; (bf) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2048 to 10 September 2049; (bg) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2049 to 10 September 2050; (bh) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2050 to 10 September 2051; (bi) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2051 to 10 September 2052; (bj) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2052 to 10 September 2053; (bk) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2053 to 10 September 2054; (bl) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2054 to 10 September 2055; (bm) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2055 to 10 September 2056; (bn) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2056 to 10 September 2057; (bo) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2057 to 10 September 2058; (bp) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2058 to 10 September 2059; (bq) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2059 to 10 September 2060; (br) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2060 to 10 September 2061; (bs) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2061 to 10 September 2062; (bt) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2062 to 10 September 2063; (bu) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2063 to 10 September 2064; (bv) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2064 to 10 September 2065; (bw) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2065 to 10 September 2066; (bx) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2066 to 10 September 2067; (by) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2067 to 10 September 2068; (bz) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2068 to 10 September 2069; (ca) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2069 to 10 September 2070; (cb) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2070 to 10 September 2071; (cc) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2071 to 10 September 2072; (cd) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2072 to 10 September 2073; (ce) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2073 to 10 September 2074; (cf) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2074 to 10 September 2075; (cg) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2075 to 10 September 2076; (ch) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2076 to 10 September 2077; (ci) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2077 to 10 September 2078; (cj) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2078 to 10 September 2079; (ck) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2079 to 10 September 2080; (cl) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2080 to 10 September 2081; (cm) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2081 to 10 September 2082; (cn) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2082 to 10 September 2083; (co) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2083 to 10 September 2084; (cp) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2084 to 10 September 2085; (cq) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2085 to 10 September 2086; (cr) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2086 to 10 September 2087; (cs) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2087 to 10 September 2088; (ct) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2088 to 10 September 2089; (cu) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2089 to 10 September 2090; (cv) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2090 to 10 September 2091; (cw) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2091 to 10 September 2092; (cx) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2092 to 10 September 2093; (cy) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2093 to 10 September 2094; (cz) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2094 to 10 September 2095; (da) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2095 to 10 September 2096; (db) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2096 to 10 September 2097; (dc) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2097 to 10 September 2098; (dd) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2098 to 10 September 2099; (de) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2099 to 10 September 2100; (df) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2100 to 10 September 2101; (dg) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2101 to 10 September 2102; (dh) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2102 to 10 September 2103; (di) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2103 to 10 September 2104; (dj) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2104 to 10 September 2105; (dk) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2105 to 10 September 2106; (dl) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2106 to 10 September 2107; (dm) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2107 to 10 September 2108; (dn) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2108 to 10 September 2109; (do) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2109 to 10 September 2110; (dp) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2110 to 10 September 2111; (dq) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2111 to 10 September 2112; (dr) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2112 to 10 September 2113; (ds) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2113 to 10 September 2114; (dt) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2114 to 10 September 2115; (du) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2115 to 10 September 2116; (dv) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2116 to 10 September 2117; (dw) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2117 to 10 September 2118; (dx) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2118 to 10 September 2119; (dy) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2119 to 10 September 2120; (dz) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2120 to 10 September 2121; (ea) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2121 to 10 September 2122; (eb) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2122 to 10 September 2123; (ec) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2123 to 10 September 2124; (ed) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2124 to 10 September 2125; (ee) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2125 to 10 September 2126; (ef) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2126 to 10 September 2127; (eg) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2127 to 10 September 2128; (eh) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from 11 September 2128 to 10 September 2129; (ei) to consider and, if thought fit, to approve the report of the Administrative Receiver on the affairs of the company for the period from

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (58593)
 6.30 Breakfast News starts with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when there begins news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (78340883)
 9.05 Bravestarr. Animation (r) (7863609) 9.25 Artifax. Style and design series presented by Margaret Wilson (r) (3531999)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (406203) 10.05 Playdays (r) (581841) 10.25 Lashie. The clever collie saves one of her puppies from danger (1153883) 10.45 T.N.T. Showbiz magazine introduced by Andi Peters (r) (7995319)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (8581319) 11.05 The Flying Doctors. Drama series set in the Australian outback (3288203) 11.50 The History Man. Bryan McNamey visits the Elizabethan manor house of Thirce, the scene of a five-month siege during the civil war (5677086)
 12.00 News, regional news and weather (7573864) 12.05 Summer Scents. With Linda Mitchell and Carol Keating (269406) 12.55 Regional News and weather (27661834)
 1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (67339)
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (r) (4354425) 1.50 Missing. A documentary about families of some of the 1,000 people who disappear each year (45278512)
 2.00 Film: No Room To Run (1978) starring Richard Benjamin and Paula Prentiss. A made-for-television thriller about an American businessman in Sydney who becomes involved in murder. Directed by Robert Michael Lewis (967593)
 4.00 Tom and Jerry Double Bill (r) (6952715) 4.10 Babar. Cartoon adventures of a young elephant (6903425) 4.35 Dipsy Heights. Episode three of a six-part children's comedy (r) (8142796)
 5.00 Newsround (3176115) 5.10 The News Breakers. Roy Cople and Cheryl Baker celebrate the programme's twentieth anniversary with a trip to Disney World (r). (Ceefax) (3832048)
 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (3254932). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (77)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (57). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Femi Oke and Mark Franklin (3970)



Decision time: Sharon (Letitia Dean) between men (7.30pm)

- 7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (3) (41)
 8.00 Every Second Counts. Against-the-clock game show, presented by Paul Daniels (r) (3930)
 8.30 The Russ Abbott Show. Comedy sketch series (r). (Ceefax) (3) (8425)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (2116)
 9.30 Africa in Crisis Appeal by Gavin Campbell. (Ceefax) (3) (860390)
 9.35 Porridge. Fletcher cannot understand why his cell-mate Gordon is working so hard to get another O-level before he leaves prison. Starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale (r). (Ceefax) (185086)
 10.05 Film: Blue Lightning (1986) starring Sam Elliott, Rebecca Gilling and Robert Culp. Adventure yarn about a San Francisco private detective who is hired to retrieve a precious jewel that is held by a vicious killer who lives in the Australian outback with a private army. Directed by Lee Phillips (25416)
 11.40 Spenser For Hire. Robert Ulrich stars as the Boston-based private detective (741883) 12.30am Weather (2464821)

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video sets. Tap in the VideoPlus+ code for the programme you wish to watch. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 121204. Each channel at 45p per minute peak. 35p off-peak or written to VideoPlus+. Acorn Ltd, 5 Ivory House, Hamilton Wharf, London SW11 3TN. VideoPlus+, Pluscode (TM) and Video Recorder are trademarks of Genstar Marketing Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Frontiers of Geology (6390048). Ends at 7.10
 9.25 Jumble. Last in the cryptic word game show. The guests are Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (3) (6772222) 9.55 Thames News (7297951)
 10.00 Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers. Animation (7214628) 10.25 Riddick Riddick. Animation based on Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* (721715) 10.55 News headlines (8072048)
 11.00 On the Border. Cartoon adventures of Olaf the Ox (r) (8082425) 11.25 The Cap. A story from Belgium about the trial of a kidnapper (r) (8085512) 11.55 Thames News (4310154) 12.00 Cartoon Time (7237406) 12.10 The Riddlers. Puppet series for children (5331970)
 12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather (2316999) 1.05 Thames News (69621512)
 1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (497609) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (496860)
 2.15 Wish You Were Here... 7. Special John Carter visits the Horda Keys and Hoella Benjamin takes a cruise. (Oracle) (471661) 2.45 Take the High Road. Highland drama series (6147654)
 3.10 ITN News headlines (408245) 3.15 Thames News headlines (4007796) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in an Australian dry hospital (211038)
 3.50 Cartoon Time (908406) 3.55 Huddy Pig (r) (8457116) 4.05 Kankers Television (r) (916425) 4.30 Rolf's Cartoon Club (r) (80) 5.00 Cartoon Time (3194512)
 5.10 Who's the Boss? American sitcom (9497609)
 5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (8203)
 5.55 Thames News (r) (757970)
 6.00 Home and Away (r) (Oracle) (45)
 6.30 Thames News (25)
 7.00 Emmerdale. Drama series set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle) (5338)
 7.30 Jimmy's. The first of a new documentary series about life in St James's University Hospital, Leeds (39)
 8.00 The Bill: Letting Go. DS Greig is reluctantly closing the book on the unsolved murder of a barman when one last visit to the man's wife unearths a vital clue (4086)



King of the castle: mountaineer Reinhold Messner (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Climbers. Chris Bonington visits the celebrated mountaineer Reinhold Messner in his Tyrolean castle. (Ceefax) (7932)
 8.30 Ps and Qs. Quiz game show about etiquette. (Ceefax) (9067)
 9.00 The Travel Show. Reports on Portugal and the Isle of Skye (3) (3086)
 9.30 Admission Impossible.
 CHOICE: Soon after the second world war an Australian propaganda film could boast that 98 per cent of the population was of British stock. This documentary charts the attempts to keep it that way, with a white Australia policy that sometimes seemed to echo the language of Nazi Germany. The first breaches had been made during the war when United States forces arrived with black soldiers and Australia admitted Asian refugees to help with the labour shortage. But after 1945 the ban on non-Europeans returned and efforts were redoubled to win immigrants from the mother country. The great fear was being swamped by the newly independent Asian states and though the white Australia policy was finally ended by Gough Whitlam, that fear remains. This is a fair and lucid treatment of an unending episode. (Ceefax) (5) (595951)
 10.20 Building Slights. Derek Jarman enjoys Garden House in Wimborne, Dorset, built by his art master Robin Nisocoe (r) (488970)
 10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (784203)
 11.15 Edinburgh Nights. The last in the magazine series featuring Edinburgh night events (3) (494338) 11.55 Weather (557574)
 12.00 Weekend Update. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (5287004) 12.05am Open University: Physics Beyond Experience (4760549). Ends at 12.35
 3.00 BBC Select. RCM Nursing Update (73966). Ends at 4.00

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (5123203)
 9.25 Jumble. Last in the cryptic word game show. The guests are Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (3) (6772222) 9.55 Thames News (7297951)
 10.00 Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers. Animation (7214628) 10.25 Riddick Riddick. Animation based on Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* (721715) 10.55 News headlines (8072048)
 11.00 On the Border. Cartoon adventures of Olaf the Ox (r) (8082425) 11.25 The Cap. A story from Belgium about the trial of a kidnapper (r) (8085512) 11.55 Thames News (4310154) 12.00 Cartoon Time (7237406) 12.10 The Riddlers. Puppet series for children (5331970)
 12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather (2316999) 1.05 Thames News (69621512)
 1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (497609) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (496860)
 2.15 Wish You Were Here... 7. Special John Carter visits the Horda Keys and Hoella Benjamin takes a cruise. (Oracle) (471661) 2.45 Take the High Road. Highland drama series (6147654)
 3.10 ITN News headlines (408245) 3.15 Thames News headlines (4007796) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in an Australian dry hospital (211038)
 3.50 Cartoon Time (908406) 3.55 Huddy Pig (r) (8457116) 4.05 Kankers Television (r) (916425) 4.30 Rolf's Cartoon Club (r) (80) 5.00 Cartoon Time (3194512)
 5.10 Who's the Boss? American sitcom (9497609)
 5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (8203)
 5.55 Thames News (r) (757970)
 6.00 Home and Away (r) (Oracle) (45)
 6.30 Thames News (25)
 7.00 Emmerdale. Drama series set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle) (5338)
 7.30 Jimmy's. The first of a new documentary series about life in St James's University Hospital, Leeds (39)
 8.00 The Bill: Letting Go. DS Greig is reluctantly closing the book on the unsolved murder of a barman when one last visit to the man's wife unearths a vital clue (4086)

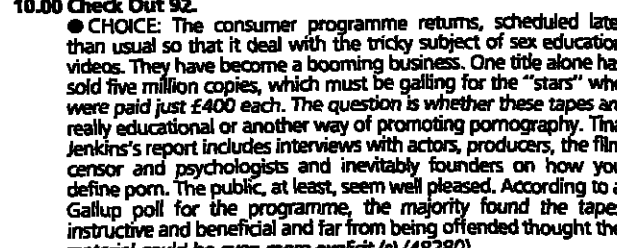


Late developers: (l to r) Punt, Hancock and Dennis (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Me, You and Him. Last in the comedy series about three graduates coping with life after leaving college. Starring Steve Punt, Hugh Dennis and Nick Hancock (3) (3593)
 9.00 LA Law. Slick American courtroom drama series. (Oracle) (3) (676999)
 9.55 Africa in Crisis Appeal (874593)
 10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Stewart and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) Weather (11358) 10.30 Thames News (361851)
 10.40 01. Includes a review by Roger Daltry of the film *White Sands*, starring Willem Dafoe (3) (261703)
 11.15 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Australian women-behind-bars drama series (226864)
 12.10am Duels of the Mind. Raymond Keene introduces the game played in 1972 between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky in Iceland. Includes the last interview given by Fischer before his 20-year retirement (476346)
 12.40 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Hunted. The first of a two-part drama starring Edward Woodward (r) (3702346)
 1.05 Film: Too Many Lovers (1957). French-made romantic comedy starring Zizi Jeanmaire as a cabaret dancer who has difficulty in choosing "Mr Right" from her many admirers. Directed by Henri Decoin (273984)
 3.00 Hardball. American police drama series (r) (3) (26100)
 4.00 Motorsport Special. Action from Mallory Park and Thruxton (5348)
 4.30 America's Top Ten (r) (3) (69487)
 5.00 VideoFashions (r) (3) (5988)
 5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (99013). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (5121845)
 9.25 Radar Men From The Moon (b/w). Space adventures (6824574)
 9.40 Roofers (3875749) 9.55 Get Smart (4211408)
 10.20 Star Trek. Bob Goldfo meets the inquisitive computer (r) (7216086)
 10.50 Remota Control (r) (3) (5765086) 11.20 Things to Come (r) (8084883) 11.50 Billiards. Animation (r) (5660796) 12.00 The Munsters (b/w) (r) (98721)
 12.30 Mr Nobody. The story of an elderly man's fight against being taken into care (r) (20574) 1.00 Sesame Street (r) (58357) 2.00 Secrets of the Moor. Chris Chapman explores Exmoor (2864)
 2.30 Film: Storm Centre (1956, b/w) starring Bette Davis and Brian Keith. A strong drama about a widowed librarian in small-town New England who becomes the victim of spiteful anti-communist campaign. Directed by Daniel Taradash (9548006)
 4.05 The Electric House (b/w). A Buster Keaton silent (3914067)
 4.30 Countdown. The words and numbers game (3) (22)
 5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. A discussion on marriage problems caused by money — or the lack of it (7010048)
 5.50 The Bumbury Tails. Cartoon adventures (r) (747593)
 6.00 My Two Dads. American comedy series (r). (Teletext) (3) (15)
 6.30 Wilderness Edge. Episode three of a six-part series exploring the relationship between a disparate group of young people on an outdoor adventure course (r) (3) (67)
 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zehab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather (801241) 7.50 Countdown (833785)
 8.00 Gazza: The Fight Back. A documentary about the footballer in the year after he badly damaged his knee in a reckless tackle (4796)
 9.00 Nomads: Mauritania.
 CHOICE: A four-part series on nomadic tribes opens in the western Sahara and picks up on the yearly cycle of migration which takes a Moorish family across 800 miles of desert and scrub. It is a sympathetically observed portrait of a traditional way of life which does not head the car, the aeroplane or the radio and depends, as the head of the family puts it, on God and the camel. When Mauritania gained independence from France in 1960 some 80 per cent of the population was nomadic and more people still live in tents than houses. But change is on the way. The parents debate whether they should break with convention and have their children educated. Sending a boy to school costs money and means losing a herder. But mother insists they must try to beat the modern world and that means banishing ignorance. (Teletext) (4932)
 10.00 Check Out 82.
 CHOICE: The consumer programme returns, scheduled later than usual so that it deal with the tricky subject of sex education videos. They have become a booming business. One title alone has sold five million copies, which must be getting for the "stars" who were paid just £400 each. The question is whether these tapes are really educational or another way of promoting pornography. The Jenkins report includes interviews with actors, producers, the film censor and psychologists and inevitably founders on how you define porn. The public, at least, seem well pleased. According to a Gallup poll for the programme, the majority found the tapes instructive and beneficial and far from being offensively thought the material could be even more explicit (3) (46280)



Seconds out: boxing hopeful Dean Hollington (10.30pm)

- 10.30 Fighters.
 CHOICE: The director of this documentary, Ron Peck, says of boxing: "I want spectacle, skill, action, violence — and a little bit of heart." This forthright declaration is the prelude to a long and sometimes indulgent excavation of the fight game which is set in the London East End and built around Mark Kaylor, a former champion making a come-back, and young hopefuls on the way up. What keeps us watching is wanting to know whether they make it, particularly Kaylor who is approaching the age when many boxers hang up their gloves. Peck offers a revealing picture of the fighter's motivations and anxieties though his over-emphasis of a with a portentous commentary and stylistic excesses such as slow motion and brooding footage of empty rings (3) (30319)
 12.30am Film: Blood Relatives (1977) starring Donald Sutherland as an 87th Precinct policeman investigating the murder of a 17-year-old girl. Based on the novel by Ed McBain and directed by Claude Chabrol (855407). Ends at 2.10

SATELITE

- SKY ONE**
 Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites
 6.00am The Day After Tomorrow (6822154) 8.40 Mrs Pepperpot (876999) 9.35 Playdays (r) (581841) 10.25 Lashie. The clever collie saves one of her puppies from danger (1153883) 10.45 T.N.T. Showbiz magazine introduced by Andi Peters (r) (7995319)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (8581319) 11.05 The Flying Doctors. Drama series set in the Australian outback (3288203) 11.50 The History Man. Bryan McNamey visits the Elizabethan manor house of Thirce, the scene of a five-month siege during the civil war (5677086)
 12.00 News, regional news and weather (7573864) 12.05 Summer Scents. With Linda Mitchell and Carol Keating (269406) 12.55 Regional News and weather (27661834)
 1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (67339)
 1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (r) (4354425) 1.50 Missing. A documentary about families of some of the 1,000 people who disappear each year (45278512)
 2.00 Film: No Room To Run (1978) starring Richard Benjamin and Paula Prentiss. A made-for-television thriller about an American businessman in Sydney who becomes involved in murder. Directed by Robert Michael Lewis (967593)
 4.00 Tom and Jerry Double Bill (r) (6952715) 4.10 Babar. Cartoon adventures of a young elephant (6903425) 4.35 Dipsy Heights. Episode three of a six-part children's comedy (r) (8142796)
 5.00 Newsround (3176115) 5.10 The News Breakers. Roy Cople and Cheryl Baker celebrate the programme's twentieth anniversary with a trip to Disney World (r). (Ceefax) (3832048)
 5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (3254932). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) Weather (77)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (57). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Femi Oke and Mark Franklin (3970)

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Please don't look away

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SKY SPORTS

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